

INDIA GoodHomes

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GOOD DESIGN CHANGES EVERYTHING

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GOOD ADVICE

WHAT THE EXPERTS HAVE TO SAY

Design your home
around your family

RECLAIM, RECONNECT, REGROW
A DIY guide on gardening in the pandemic

**GET A
GLIMPSE**
DISTINCTLY-STYLED
RENTAL HOMES

**BYE-BYE,
SUMMER**
Decorating Ideas
Reminiscent
of Sunny Days

EPIC TRANSFORMATION

Witness the
revival of
a small home
in Kerala

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June 2021



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THE COVER

FEATURE AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA
PROJECT BY MEERA PYARELAL, TEMPLE TOWN
PHOTOGRAPH JUSTIN SEBASTIAN

INDIA'S FIRST CURATED LUXURY LIVING SHOW IS COMING TO BANGALORE!

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NEXT ISSUE

Time to bring home some calm, and by that we mean a soothing style. July is when we dial things back... from the homes and design ideas to the people doing great work with mindful design, this issue is all heart and soul!



Calling all stylists – 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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DECADE SPECIAL



PHOTOGRAPH ABHEER DHANU

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There's a lot that we learnt in these last two years. And it hasn't been a flat curve – thank God for that! Unlike with the pandemic, a sharply rising graph here hints at wonderful things. Personal growth being at the top of the list.

In fact, if there was one constant during this period it was the constant challenging of everything we have ever considered “normal”. Now I realise we've been over this many, many times, but I still have those deer-in-the-headlights moments when I can't help stopping to stare at some of the sea changes that have happened in these last 12 to 14 months.

I've always been a homing bird who loves her cosy corners – might I add here that I have quite a few of them around the house – but today, I appreciate stepping out of the house more than anything else in the world! I feel the gratitude in my bones every time I'm out of the house. Once upon a time, I would have lobbied with my life on the line to be able to work from home, today I look forward to team meeting that need me to be in the office. In fact, speaking of work and going to the office, I'm a bit of an oxymoron there...office used to be my second home – which is why, you will now realise, how much I love actually “going” to work.

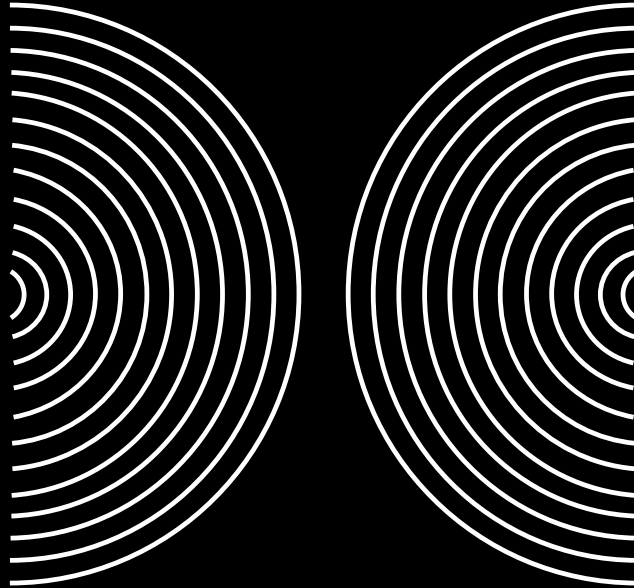
So to get back to the point about personal growth, for me it's all about becoming more and more aware of who I am – and naturally, that would translate into getting to know myself better. With this time locked away, I can happily say that I've discovered things about myself that would've never believed to be true about me. That in my opinion is indubitably personal growth.

What about you? I'd love to hear and start a dialogue with all of you readers on the myriad self-discoveries you have made in these last few months. Write to me!

RONITAA ITALIA
Editor in Chief

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MOODBOARD OF THE MONTH



ART BY ANNUSHKA HARDIKAR



PORTICO



SHIBUI

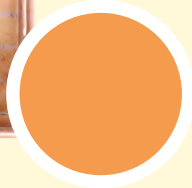


INDIA CIRCUS

ART AGE



BAAVA



ARTYCHOKE

Happy Meadows

A combination of floral prints, tactile finishes and bright garden colours. We are in the mood for joy

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA**

Shopping Guide on Pg 58



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1
Mirror-light,
Purple Backyard X
Harshita Jhamtani
Designs

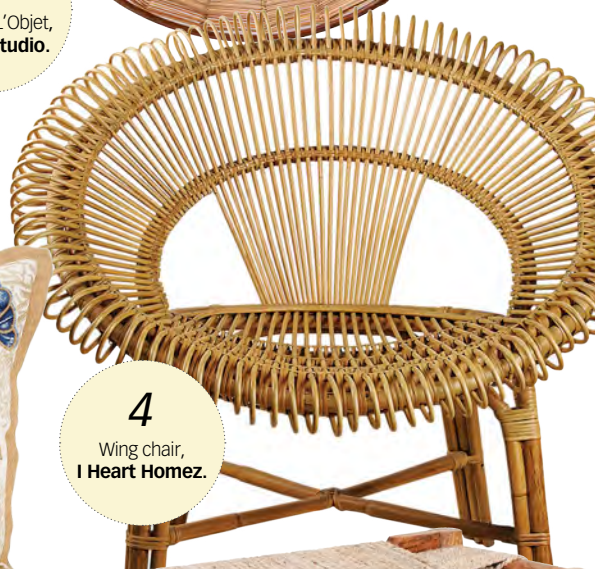
2
Kelly lamp,
Iqrup + Ritz.



8
Swan by L'Objet,
Emery Studio.



3
Wall light,
JOSMO Studio.



4
Wing chair,
I Heart Homez.



7
Blue lobster,
Art Age.

Beach Vibing

...with sandy shades, wooden finishes and ocean creatures

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA**



6
Grand Canyon
fossil bath set,
Gulmohar Lane.



5
Wrap bench,
AKFD.

Shopping Guide on Pg 58

HOT RIGHT NOW



THE GLAMOUR OF LIGHT

Make a statement
with these stunners

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA**

1 Maiden voyage*, The Whiteteak Company. 2 & 3 Light by SICIS*; both available at Tessera Light. 4 Ornametal light fixture*, Beyond Designs Home. 5 Rodin lamp*, Iqrup + Ritz. 6 Tutu lamp*, BARO Design. 7 Light by SICIS*, Tessera Light. 8 Light by Saint Louis*, Emery Studio. 9 Light by Preciosa*, Sources Unlimited. *Prices on Request
Shopping Guide on Pg 58

COMFORTED BY NATURE

Headed by architect Anupriya Sahu, Alankaram is based in Madhya Pradesh and stands out for its bespoke, handcrafted furniture designs that reflect the rich culture and bio-diversity of India. The ergonomically designed Pouli chairs are finessed with handpainted birds resting against colour-soaked earth. A fitting ode to the upcoming Monsoons, no?



Form and Function

We have set our sights on the vibrant mustard tone of the Daffodil sofa from Mangrove Collective. Its evocative form is a cross between modern-traditional. We like that it is blurring design boundaries.



MARKET UPDATE

Launch Pad

New launches, everything hot, whatever's not.... We tell you first!

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA**



Summer Inspired

Annushka Hardikar has caught our eye. She wears many hats, varying from illustrator, visual artist, documenter, and TEDX speaker. With every new piece of art, the constant imagery is that of nature or people or animals in nature..but nature remains her muse. There is a vivid brightness to her work, something we could all use right about now!



Modern Tales

Over a Century old, Carpet Kingdom is one of South India's oldest carpet manufacturers. The brand steps into the future with a 2021 Summer series with dhurries, carpets, and more.



Shopping Guide on Pg 58

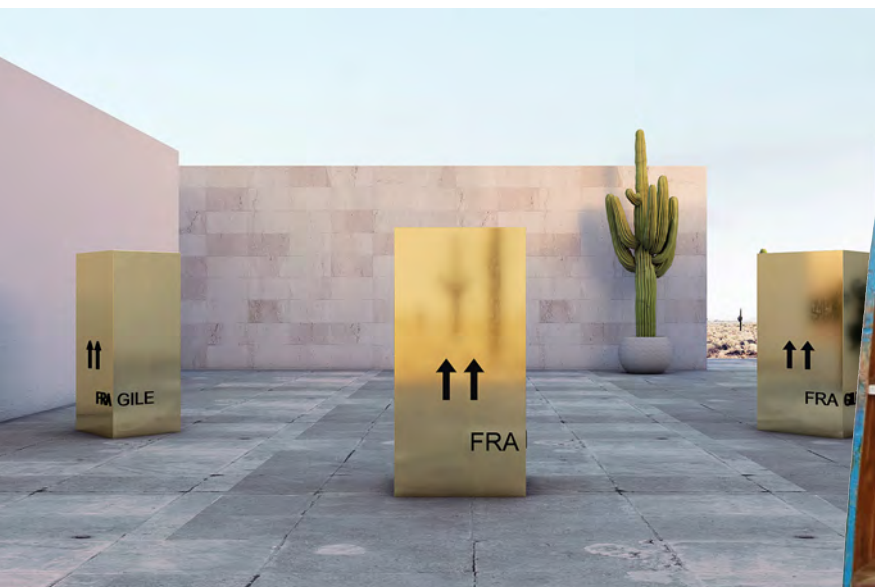
BEST OF DESIGN ▼

Everything that designer Matthew Williamson touches, turns to gold. And when it is a collaboration with Obeetee one of the country's most reputed and oldest rugs companies, the result is bound to be steeped in modern reverence. Inspired by nature, every rug/carpet is bold, vibrant, elegant, and summery.



Comfort First

In what is her second outing with Clarke & Clarke, designer Emma J Shipley collaborates on Wilderie, a series of coverings, furnishings, and accents inspired by mythical creatures and vivid colours. You can find more of this dynamic venture at Maishaa.



The Art of Living ▲

Sanjyt Singh, one of the country's leading Avant-garde designers recently launched Parcel Me, a furniture series inspired by the idea of parceling only good thoughts to destinations. It is made from brushed brass and glass.



Talk about inspiring upcycling projects! Pepperfry brings us Eugene, a solid wood book shelf in distress finish by Bohemiana. Priced at ₹43,999, this design is perfect for compact spaces.

Shopping Guide on Pg 58

Children At Home

With the new normal, a child's bedroom must be a do-it-all space. It demands great creative and functional input, where fun, safety and practicality are key factors to keep in mind. We bring you insights from the experts

FEATURE RADHIKA SHENOI

“

Keep comfort and safety as your priorities. Even in my studio, we have the essential furniture like the changing table and a feeding station.

— Amrita Samant, Founder, Mommy Shots by Amrita



A MINIMALIST NURSERY

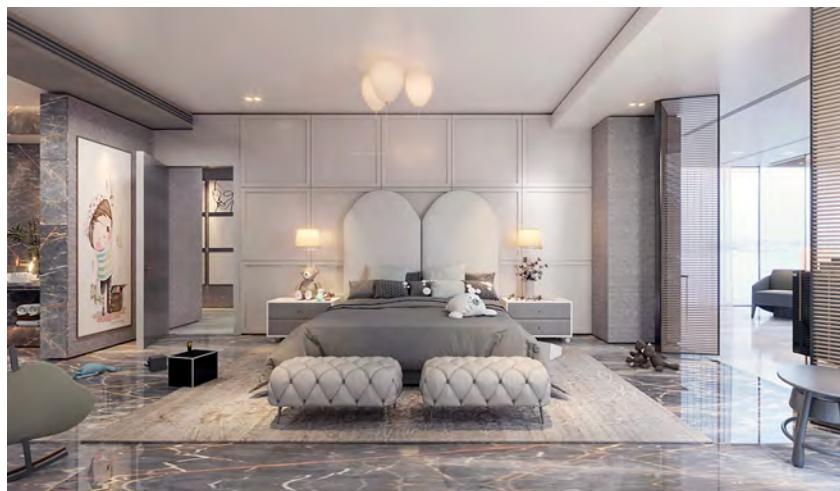
While there are many elements in decorating a nursery, the most important of all is the furniture. It is essential to choose your furniture first before designing the rest of the space. The four main pieces are the crib, dresser, changing table and a feeding chair. Make functionality the top priority as it makes the space safe for toddlers and mothers and creates a pleasant and relaxing environment. ►





“For long, children's rooms have borne the brunt of too much colour, and too many patterns and prints. After much research, we created rooms veering away from the popular trend to appeal to the children of today.

— **Hardesh Chawla**, Founder, Essentia Environments



PASTEL FOR SERENITY

The modern children's room embodies imaginative design schemes using subtle colour palettes and lots of tonal and textural variations. Spaces must be engaging and exciting, rather than loud and overpowering. Soft pastels, gradient colour variations and a multitude of textures evoke peace and calm. Patterned wooden flooring, simple and elegant mouldings on walls, interesting shapes and forms create infinite stimulation in young minds. ►

“

The design concept revolves around allocating dedicated space and creating an independent room for a child. Ample storage around the reading nook, pin board and open shelves add functionality to the bedroom.

— Meenu Agarwal, Founder, MADs Creations



STIMULATING COLOURS AND DESIGN

Bright, stimulating and full of exciting design elements, this room has been created keeping the child's growing needs. An arched reading nook into which one can scramble up, a bed with enough soft cushioning all around, and lots of tactile and textural materials to explore... it's a magical world designed. The creative wallpapers and delightful colours add fun to the inspiring environment. Practical organization tools such as racks and floating shelves create ample storage space. ►



CUSTOMISED AND FUNCTIONAL

The easiest way to make sure the furniture and décor will grow with your kid is by customising it. Remember to choose the products which are comfortable and safe for children. Consider decor elements designed using organic materials and non-toxic paints. Add fun elements like animal chairs to keep the little one's imagination wild and free. Help them learn how to keep the space organised by using bookcases and cute toy baskets. ►



“Always create unique and fun spaces for children. Functionality and aesthetics should be the major criteria while designing the room. Keep your child's personality in mind and bring the imagination to life.

Nupur Muhana Gupta, Founder,
The Swaddle Cove



Click here
TO READ MORE

“
A well-designed space is
a culmination of various
carefully-curated elements
that work well together. This
nursery is an amalgamation
of warm wood tones and
playful accents.

— Sanna Daya Hasan, Founder,
TCG Studio



WARM, LUXE AND PLAYFUL

Neutral tones with wood and cane accents, set off using pastels and soft textures through furnishings, this nursery has been custom designed down to the last detail. With a woodland theme and minimalist décor, the client's favourite motifs and colours were added in the design through wallpapers and furnishings. This nursery is full of tiny details ranging from curtain ties to paneling that cleverly conceals a walk-in wardrobe. A custom designed a rug not only grounds the space but also adds a playful element that incorporates pastel shades. ►

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“The idea was to come up with a cosy room perfect for playing and comfortable for sleeping. Since the decor had to cater to a mixed age group, the design is generic and also adapts to an adventure zone.

Romilla Tewari, Founder,
ThinkCutieful

WHIMSICAL, FUNCTIONAL AND QUIRKY

The main idea of the design was to craft a thoughtfully designed space which infuses dollops of quirkiness into the décor. It is perfect for playing and comfortable for sleeping. The bed combines with a staircase, a loft with cut outs resembling a colourful window-cum-balcony unit and a slide on the opposite side of the bed. A layered effect is created by introducing candy hues on the headboard and the staircase which also accommodates pull-out storage drawers for books and toys. **GH**



HAPPY GREEN DAYS

Reclaim, reconnect, regrow...step into your garden and flex your green thumb in the adept company of these gardening tools, kits, and essentials

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA**



BERURU

Beruru, headed by Radeesh Shetty, is a garden lifestyle brand based in Bengaluru and Chennai. The label believes that everyone deserves a little sanctuary, and they help create just that - your garden reserve. From vernacular plants to exotic foliage's, you can find anything and everything here to nurture the garden of your dreams.

THE ESSENTIALS

A basic tool kit at Beruru consists of a garden fork and two garden trowels. But we can find many upgrades well worth making. From a vibrant and fun apron and garden tools for beginners, to a fully-equipped kit that includes an air plant, a spray can, glass container along with rice lights, this gardening retreat arms you with the basics and then some more. If you are just about starting on your journey, this is the place!

PARROT AND LILY

Organising is a big deal when it comes to nurturing a thriving green expanse. Tulika Bhatnagar of Parrot and Lily believes it is crucial to focus on creating demarcated zones for your equipment, tools and kit, to lend ease to the art of gardening. The Rocco design of this wall-mounted organiser is a great decor addition to your green scape. Gardening made stylish.

NATURAL PATINA

Another thing we love about this design is how forgiving this gardening tool organiser is to natural wear and tear. As days turn to months and then to years, the patina deepens and goes on to infuse more depth to your space. That is the real beauty of the classic Rocco design, isn't it?





BOMBAY GREENS

During the pandemic, entrepreneurs Tanvi Agarwal and Ankur Agarwal, recognised that people felt safer growing their own herbs and vegetables. Out of that realisation, Bombay Greens was born in May 2020, with the idea of DIY Grow Kits. These consist of everything we need. From understanding soil to growing plants, everything is comprehensive and easy.

DIY GROW KITS

Based on the belief that we should be self-reliant and independent, Bombay Greens present DIY Grow Kits that help us nurture our own vegetables, herbal teas, edible flowers, and microgreens. There are 10 variants, and each has three types of seeds, three grow pots, coco peat discs, fertiliser, name tags and an extensive instruction manual.



UPAJ FARMS

Avanee Jain, the founder of UPAJ Farms, is an architect and permaculture designer. From her family-owned land in Vadodara, Gujarat, she shares her passion via a myriad of gardening ideas. From gardening tools to GIY (grow it yourself) kits that simplify growing vegetables, herbs, flowers in an organic, and pesticide and chemical free manner.

KITS FOR KIDS

To promote gardening as an activity amongst children, UPAJ Farms has introduced GIY kits for children that come with illustrated instructions on how gardens help nature. It is a simple kit and children, six-years onwards, can follow the easy instructions by themselves to go on and become organic gardeners. These low-cost kits are priced from Rs99 onwards.



SHIBUI

Atman Sandhu, the founder of Shibui, prides herself on giving birth to an Indian-born brand that creates weatherproof, lightweight, and unbreakable life-sized artisanal planters. Produced by local artisans, these handmade and painted planters are a great addition to our list of gardening essentials.

ECO-FRIENDLY

Shibui planters are a great way to enjoy nature at home, as you can be comforted knowing that the aesthetic needs of your garden did not increase your carbon-footprint. Each ingredient used in the making of these planters are ethically sourced, made in eco-conscious factories and handcrafted to artisanal perfection. They come in varied heights too.

SUNSHINE CORNERS

Spruce up your home with summer
colours and decorative touches

FEATURE AND STYLE **RADHIKA SHENOI** PHOTOGRAPHS **RAGHAV SETHI**



COTTAGE CHARM

Decorating your hutch or cabinet is the easiest way to bring in Summer. Display your bright and joyful plates, platters and dainty tea sets. Add some storage with rattan baskets and finally, bring in the florals and greens.

(THIS PAGE)
Cabinet, Ikea India.
Heart measuring cups, The Wishing Chair.
Rattan basket, Nature Weavers.

(FACING PAGE)
Poppies cushion, Attirail Shop.
Azura tea cup and saucer, The Decorkart.
Indigo tea pot, Cultural Concepts.

(THIS PAGE)
Poppies cushion,
Attirail Shop.
Mirror, **Ikea India.**
Ceramic vase,
HollyHock. Plant,
Ugao.

(FACING PAGE)
Dining set, **Ikea India.**
Vintage vase, **The Decorkart.** Crystal
candle stands,
Champs Fleur.
Rug, **FabIndia.**



CONTEMPORARY CLASSIC

Floral decor is the perfect way to bring the sunny summer vibe into your living room. Add a pop of nature with floral throw cushions, fresh flowers and greens. Choose linen and cotton soft furnishings to make the room airy and cool.



SUMMER SOIRÉE

Bring in bright summery colours to your dining area with fresh flowers.

Pick blooms in warm radiant colours such as peach, yellow and purple to create the picture-perfect summertime vibe. Mix neutral tableware with easy floral accents for timeless elegance and English-inspired vintage charm.



HOME

DEEP-ROOTED COMFORTS

For this rented duplex in Mumbai, Shreya Bhimani crafts a tropical-inspired interior to reflect the calm and vivacity of the ocean and racecourse view the home enjoys

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA** PHOTOGRAPHS **MOHSIN TAHA**





“

WE STARTED WITH A CLEAN SLATE. TO CRAFT THE DEPTH
AND WARMTH WE AIMED TO ACHIEVE, WE BROUGHT
IN RICH MATERIALS, DISTRESSED WOOD,
WALLPAPERS AND MARBLE.

— Shreya Bhimani, Interior Designer and Stylist, Shreya Bhimani Designs





Shreya's curation of the pieces of furniture are high on form and function. Take for instance the dining table, the square-shaped, six-seater table may appear as an unusual choice, but she selected it as it was comfortable and fit well within the space. The designer also optimised vacant corners, to create functional areas of respite. She has peppered this sequence throughout the house while still maintaining the integrity of expanse.





SHREYA BHIMANI

Founder, Shreya Bhimani Designs

Before the inception of Shreya Bhimani Designs, Shreya has gained knowledge of handling projects and team by working with different architects for several years. She has handled high-end residences, hospitality and real estate projects. She has also been part of restoring Oberoi hotel after the tragic terror attack in Mumbai and has also consulted an online editorial magazine for styling. A decade into this, she founded her own interiors design company that prides itself on creating user-friendly spaces that remain stylish and evocative.



“

THE DINING AREA WAS PLANNED AROUND THE STAIRCASE. SOFTER TONES WERE USED FOR THE CHAIRS TO BRING OUT THE WARMTH OF THE WOOD.

— Shreya Bhimani, Interior Designer and Stylist, Shreya Bhimani Designs





“

WE CALL IT THE ‘ASYMMETRIC HOUSE’. FROM THE DECOR AND ART CURATION TO THE FURNITURE, THE PLAN WAS TO CREATE A SPACE WHERE NOTHING BLOCKED THE CENTRE. EXPANSE IS CELEBRATED.

— **Shreya Bhimani**, Interior Designer and Stylist, Shreya Bhimani Designs

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At the heart of everything comfort remains the focus in this 4,500sqft duplex apartment located in Mumbai. Yes, it is grand in scale and design, but these aesthetic factors firmly revolve around the function and pragmatics of things. And that is what the owners of this rented duplex apartment wanted, and interior designer and stylist, Shreya Bhimani delivered just that. But it is her unique approach to finding the balance between warmth and style that elevates the overall language of this Mumbai home that is located up high on the 24th floor of one of the Megacity's most coveted addresses.

Talking about how she achieved this balance, Shreya says, "Wood is the dominant material in the whole house. As

we wanted to create a vibe that is plush mixed with some elements of playfulness, wood lend itself to this narrative so well."

The designer counterbalances the warmth with pops of colour and an interesting curation of arts. Take for instance the clayheads in the informal sitting area, their scattered pattern along the white walls, transforms this space into a vibrant recess. Shreya firmly believes that elegance in a home is striking the right chord between aesthetics, functionality and good energy. The holy trinity, so to say. And this home resonates with her philosophy so well. The views are integral to bringing about a refreshing air in this home, and Shreya has ensured she plays to the strengths of this home...the floor it sits on, the view it enjoys, and the people that call this home. **GH**

While designing this home that is perched up high on the 24th floor, Shreyas was mindful that she wanted to create a home that matched up to the magic of the view. She planned the interiors along the walls of the home and purposefully kept central spaces clear. The idea was to retain the expanse and create a sense of scale within the house.

HOME FOR THE GENERATIONS

Nestled in a quaint corner of Mumbai, Sejal Shah transformed this two-storey ancestral home into a contemporary and inviting address

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA** PHOTOGRAPHS **ASHISH SAHI**



“

This ancestral house had an obvious Art Deco leaning. It was crucial to maintain that pedigree while introducing modernism. We revolved everything around key art pieces.

— Sejal Shah, Founder & Principal Designer, Reflections by Sejal







“

The play of natural light against textures creates a soulful effect. The classic wood finish of the furniture marries well with the narrative of legacy.

— Sejal Shah, Founder & Principal Designer, Reflections by Sejal





SEJAL SHAH

**Founder and Principal Designer,
Reflections by Sejal**

Reflections by Sejal is a company born out of a need for expression and creation. For the past 25 years, it has been pushing the boundaries of design to create luxurious homes around the world. The company rests on Sejal's ethos of viewing every project as a collaboration between the designer and consumer. Her designs are created in harmony with the natural structure of the project.



“


The cove of greenery and shade the house sat in, provided a tranquil environment. I embraced that while designing the overall space.

— Sejal Shah, Founder & Principal Designer, Reflections by Sejal



With a delicate hand, interior designer, Sejal Shah injects modernity in the fabric of this two-storey ancestral home. Located in Juhu, Mumbai, this expansive 7,500sqft home had stayed the same for years. And so when Sejal, the founder of Reflections by Sejal, was approached to redesign and update the narrative, she was clear nothing would change drastically. This bungalow would still have the bones of a forever home that is soaked in tradition. Sejal says, “Since the house did not lack scale, I decided to embrace the space and let house live in its glory. Smart space planning did not come in compact solutions but rather strategic thinking for this project. The flow of the spaces and the fact that each individual space has been highlighted with art, lighting and colors makes them all stand out individually as areas for different use.”

Sejal has created a home inspired by a new palette, arresting artworks, and an interplay of texture. To this she adds, “For me the interiors of every project, has to have an Indian story. Those are our roots and for me it is important to make a house that is warm and inviting, and not an overwhelming symbol of flashy wealth. I always persuade clients to invest in art, which will go on to develop their love story with the house and that which can be passed on to the next generation.” Here too, Sejal has championed works of Indian artists. For example, works by Bhumika Takshak are present in the dining room.

Nature is important to the way Sejal designs. Here she celebrates the play of natural light and the scenic views this home enjoys. 



MAKING A STATEMENT

For his five-level farmhouse in Chattarpur Farms, New Delhi, Rishabh Kapoor of Design Deconstruct pulls out all the stops. From the architecture to the styling and the art curation, his home is larger than life

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA** PHOTOGRAPHS **ATUL PRATAP CHAUHAN**

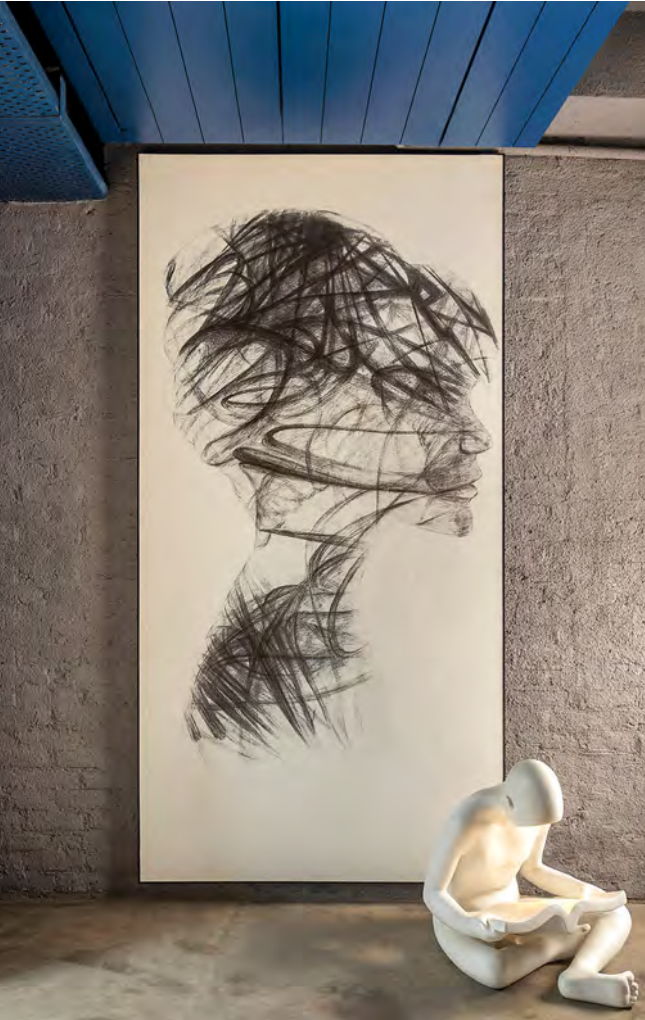




“

WITH THIS HOME, WE WANTED TO CREATE VISUAL SPACES THAT WERE EASY TO MAINTAIN. OUR FOCUS WAS TO CELEBRATE A CLEAN AESTHETIC IN AN UNCLUTTERED SPACE.

— **Monica Chadha**, *Director and Principal Designer, Design Deconstruct*



Aside from being an address of opulent proportions, the walls, floors and ceilings of Rishabh's home features an exciting curation of art. Works by Indian artists Thota Vaikuntham, A Ramachandran, Seema Kohli, etc, are celebrated in key spaces and transitional areas, making this home an art-lovers delight.





The narrative of this house hinges on the surreal. Scales are exaggerated, and designs of an opulent nature are everywhere, but the styling ensures it remains understated. Rishabh, along with Monica Chadha, Director and Principal Designer, Design Deconstruct, have curated an expanse that interprets dimensions differently. They are not afraid to embrace uber luxurious designs and that is refreshing.



“
WE ENTERTAIN A LOT IN BOTH SMALL AND LARGE
NUMBERS. OUR HOME NEEDED TO BE EXPANSIVE
ENOUGH TO HOST PARTIES, AND COSY ENOUGH
FOR INTIMATE GATHERINGS.

— Rishabh Kapoor, Director, Design Deconstruct



MONICA CHADHA AND RISHABH KAPOOR

Founders, Design Deconstruct

Design Deconstruct (DD) is a multi-disciplinary build and interior design firm, which was established by Monica Chadha in year 2005, which was later expanded into construction with Rishabh Kapoor, in the year 2014. Since then, the brand has been rendering services with great enthusiasm and detail. Design Deconstruct is driven by the quest for perfection and quality. It is the company's endeavor to offer its customers the most cutting-edge designs of structure and usefulness.





From the outside, this five-level farmhouse on a 27,000sqft plot of land in Chattarpur Farms, New Delhi, is bold. The façade has an interplay of unusual open pockets that offer a glimpse into its opulent

interiors. Rishabh Kapoor is the Director of Design Deconstruct, an architectural and interiors firm. For his farmhouse, he wanted a standout design. This is precisely how he planned it, along with Monica Chadha, Director and Principal Designer. From the architecture and interiors to the pieces of furniture, accessories and primarily light fixtures and art, everything is an experiment on scale and form. The drama is surreal and that makes this home, a statement!

The farmhouse, for Rishabh's family of four, features six bedrooms and bathrooms, five powder rooms, an indoor swimming pool, and expansive outdoor pockets throughout. While the layout and design is practical, the drama is present in spades. A combination of sculpturally dramatic light fixtures and arresting artworks by some of India's greatest artists, (Thota Vaikuntham, A Ramachandran, Seema Kohli, etc), introduces a vitality to this farmhouse and further drives to heart its larger-than-life narrative. **GH**



ART INSPIRES LIFE

It may be a rental, but it is still home. Smita Thomas and Rachita Murthy bring us an epic one-room-makeover, inspired by Frida Kahlo

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA** PHOTOGRAPHS **VIKRAMJIT SINGH (DARK STUDIOS)**





Smita sourced the mid-century-inspired sofa and chairs from Magari. The daybed is intended to function as a space for napping, for the three dogs of this household.

The gallery wall, above the daybed, includes, portraits of the three dogs, by artist Shunal Ligade, a ceramic plate, tribal mask, a Frida Kahlo portrait, and framed handwritten letters and poems, letters and poems written by the client's father to her while he was away on his army postings when she was a child.



“

— **Smita Thomas**, *Founder, Multitude Of Sins*





SMITA THOMAS

Founder, Multitude of Sins

Multitude of Sins, based in Bengaluru, is one of the country's leading design ateliers when it comes to unconventional space design. Headed by Smita Thomas and her team of talented designers and artists, the firm has gone on to transform expanses into scalable works of art. From unique colour applications and an astute curation of furniture, accessories and furnishings, Smita always introduces art to the mix, to create narratives that are explosive and evocative. With everything Smita does, it's always a sharp U-turn from what she's worked on previously, you can not compare her body of work, and yet therein lies the vein of thought...her passion to design spaces that are exotic in their style and function.



“
THE RENTED HOUSE CAME
WITH GREENISH-BLUE TILED
FLOORING THAT STOOD OUT. I
DID NOT WANT TO FIGHT IT, SO
I NEUTRALISED ITS PRESENCE.
THE MAIN WALL COLOUR IS NOW
AN EARTHY, GREENISH-BLUE
IN VARIED TEXTURES. IT'S THE
BASE FOR EVERYTHING.

— Smita Thomas, Founder, Multitude Of Sins



DURING MY MEETINGS, I NOTICED MY CLIENT HAD A LOT OF PORTRAITS OF FRIDA KAHLO. INSPIRED BY HER LOVE FOR THE ARTIST AND BY HER OWN INDEPENDENT LIFESTYLE, I CREATED AN ECLECTIC, FRIDA-INSPIRED SPACE, BOTH VIBRANT AND NON-CONFORMIST IN STYLE AND FUNCTION.

— Smita Thomas, Founder, Multitude Of Sins

Located in one of Bengaluru's tony neighborhoods, this independent house is the rented home to two friends and their three dogs. When the pair approached Smita Thomas to transform the one room that housed the living and dining area, the brief and scope of work excited her. Over the years, Smita's Multitude of Sins has transformed expansive scales into eclectic and resourceful residences. This project presented a unique opportunity. She looked forward to working within the structural limitations while elevating it in its prose. Smita along with Rachita Murthy, took on the challenge to transform this one room by striking balance between eclectic design and functional forms.

The main constraint was the floor colour. In the original setting, the greenish-blue, dull flooring overpowered everything. Smita decided to offset it by using tones from the same colour family for the walls. Around the newly painted walls, she built the rest...including a Frida Kahlo wall, as a fitting homage to the client's reverence for the artist. This home is more than just aesthetic genius, it harbours a medley of tactile and accent surface treatments, sculptural pieces of furniture, evocative artworks and exciting light fixtures. They work beyond space-based limitations. Smita's curation includes furniture by Magari, artworks by Shunal Ligade, a gallery wall of paintings, photographs and framed letters written to the client by her grandfather, and a kitchen cabinet the client already owned. 





INDIA MODERN

Unrestrained and fresh, Meera Pyarelal perfects the narrative that is contemporary India with this home in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA** PHOTOGRAPHS **JUSTIN SEBASTIAN**

“

WE WORKED WITH CONTRASTS FOR A TROPICAL, NORDIC STYLE. SOFT SHADES OF CHARCOAL AND CHALK ON THE FURNISHINGS ARE TEAMED WITH ROUGH GRANITE AND TIMBER, WHILE GREENERY AGAINST WHITE WALLS GIVES LIFE TO THIS VISION.

— Meera Pyarelal, Founder, Temple Town



One of the hallmarks of this home is the profusion of natural light. As this home measures 1,800sqft Meera wanted to play to the strengths and employ this sunlight filtration into the overall scheme of design. The plan was to create a fresh and airy space that distracted from the compact nature of the different areas. The designer explored a combination of pale-bright for the neutral colour scheme and played with texture and materiality to layer the home with dynamic details.



“

FOR THE LIVING ROOM, TO CREATE A STYLE THAT RESONATED WITH NATURE, WE USED A LOT OF EARTHY TONES TO HARNESS THAT EFFORTLESS VIBE. SPLASHES OF COLOUR MODERNISE THIS SOOTHING NARRATIVE.

— **Meera Pyarelal**, *Founder, Temple Town*



“

IN THE DINING AREA WE USED CLASSIC
PIECES OF FURNITURE THAT NEVER
DATE. THE TABLE IS A PIECE OF
NATURAL GRANITE AND THE CHAIRS
ARE REPLICAS OF HANS WEGNER'S
WISHBONE CHAIRS.

— Meera Pyarelal, Founder, Temple Town



Meera is very passionate about sustainable design habits. And this train of thought is obvious in this home too. She says, "The need of the hour is to create awareness among younger generations to reuse and recycle. We must understand, providing sustainable options does not mean compromising on your interior style choice or quality." And she proves that here in this home located in the Capital of God's own country.





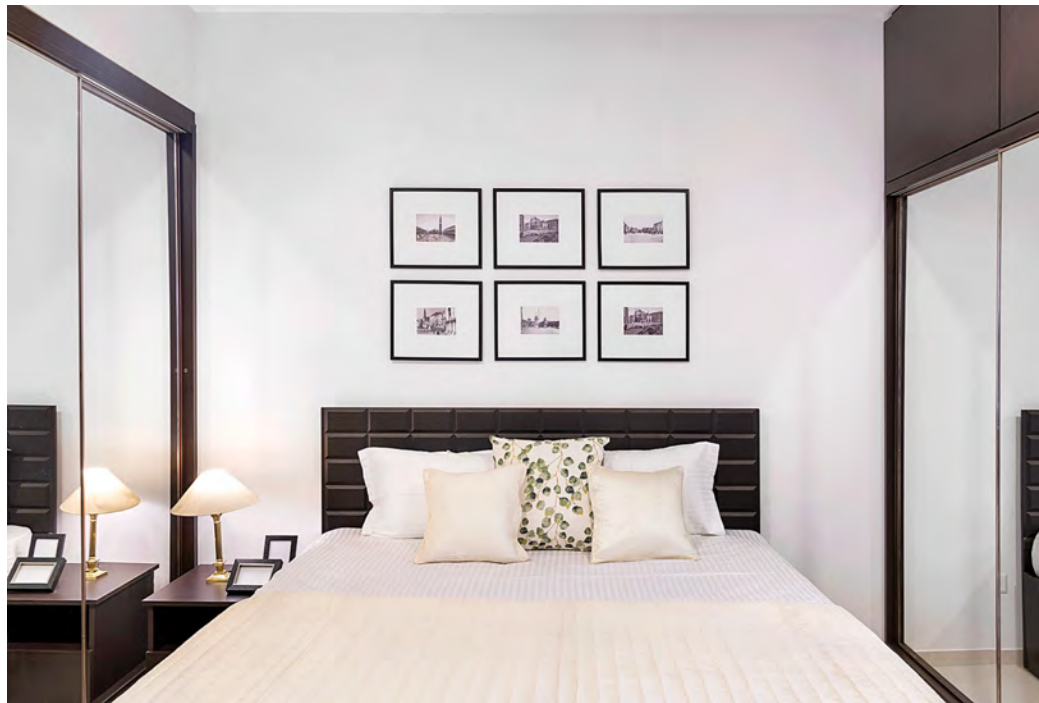
To create a sustainable address, Meera custom made the furniture with locally-sourced teakwood. To add colour, she introduced a combination of artworks and accessories, and to further add more depth of detail, tactile designs in cane, natural stone and material were incorporated.



MEERA PYARELAL

Founder, Temple Town

Armed with a Masters in English literature, she discovered her love for interiors while doing up her own apartment way back in 1999. She decided to give it a try and set up a small unit in her husband's garage 20 years ago, giving wings to her creative side. After two decades of earning a name for herself in the interiors industry, she conceived her own brand — Temple Town — with the aim of designing and manufacturing sophisticated pieces of colonial furniture.



Meera Pyarelal designs homes that are sustainable in function with a strong Indian style to it. While we are used to seeing intricate wood carvings and artisanal crafts at the forefront of most all her projects, this one is different. For this 1,800sqft home located in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, the interior and product designer, and founder of Temple Town, responded to the strengths of the site. Talking about the brief and the design, Meera says, “The brief was clear: The owners, a young working couple with two children, wanted a contemporary and crisp interior. They wanted to unwind at the end of a long day. We interpreted that as the need to create an uncomplicated light and airy space. Once the brief was clear I wanted to keep things simple and clean. So, pale surfaces are mixed with colourful accessories, while natural materials introduce texture. We made sure to optimize space, as that is crucial when working in a small space.”

Function is crucial, particularly for this home. Pragmatic designs were the need of the hour. Built-in storage with a chameleon design were custom-designed to cater to the space. Meera was mindful that for this young family functional spaces should easily transition from family areas to stylish interiors. And with that emphasis on the design, she creates a home that accommodates needs along with the aesthetics of a dream home. The stage is set for a modern Indian home where earthy tones reflect the Indian narrative, while vivid and bright details, transforms this home into a modern residence. **EN**

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