

# GoodHomes

INDIA

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GOOD DESIGN CHANGES EVERYTHING

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## STEP INSIDE

*Discover  
paradise in  
designer  
Swati Seraan's  
soulful home*

### DESIGNERS AT HOME

*Find out how  
some of the  
country's  
most sought-  
after interior  
designers live*

**LET THE  
CHILDREN  
HAVE SOME  
FUN!**

**EXPERT DECORATING  
TRICKS AND TIPS  
ON BRINGING THE  
PLAYGROUND HOME**





# CONTENTS

May 2022



## 06 SPECIAL FEATURE

06 JUST FOR KIDS

23 A SANCTUARY, CALLED HOME

## 29 HOMES

29 NESTLED IN SERENITY

35 NATURALLY NORDIC

39 EMBRACING MINIMALISM

43 REFINED ELEGANCE

49 PASTEL POPS



**THE COVER**  
FEATURE AVRIL NOEL DSOUZA  
PHOTOGRAPH NAYAN SONI

# NEXT ISSUE

It might be getting gloomy but in the next issue we plan to inspire you with styles, homes and more! With great pride we bring you an astute curation of women in design...this list highlights the gamechangers, the ones who are on a crusade to bring brilliant designs into our home. If that's not enough, we bring you stunning interiors from across the country. Prepare to be blown away!



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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PHOTOGRAPH ABHEER DHANU

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I've always been amazed at how spaces

take on the personalities of their residents. Whether it's a tiny studio apartment being rented out by two bachelors or a sprawling six-BHK overlooking the sea, homes will always tell the untold stories of the people living in them.

Interestingly, rental homes are even more eloquent. Their almost-bare walls compensated with burgeoning shelves and "showcases" full of knick-knacks. If you walk around a joint family home, you'll notice how different the common living areas are from the bedrooms; how one bedside table will be piled high with books and the one in the next room will have just one lamp and a photoframe. Every element, misplaced accessory and chipped corner will have a story attached to it. A memory that adds immeasurably to the home's emotional value.

Yes, ultimately it's all about the emotional attachment we have for our homes. Places where we were born, where we grew up...corridors where we rode our first tricycle, corners that housed our children's rockers, window seats where we prepared for our exams. It may be the people that make four walls a home. But it's the emotions these people have and hold that make them want to keep coming back "home".

This is my gentle way of reminding you, once again, that a home is a feeling, and I hope you're filling yours up with love, laughter and everything else that matters.

**RONITAA ITALIA**  
**Editor in Chief**





# MEET THE MASTERS OF DESIGN

**hansgrohe**


*presents*



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# JUST FOR KIDS

Summer Vacations; yes, these two words always ring a bell and bring back childhood memories of all the fun we had during this most waited time of the year. This fun continues as you now see your child delve into the same delight of experiencing a happy time at home. With no rules to follow, we have put together some exotic combinations of ideas, inspirations, tricks, and imaginative solutions that will help you design a perfect nook for your kids.

FEATURE **VANITA ARORA**



# TIPS & TRICKS



## INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

- Play around with different furniture pieces and avoid adding bulky chairs, desks or stools. Instead, give the room some space to create and recreate various zones and corners for the child and allow him to do what he likes.
- Highlight one wall with fun wallpaper, decals or shaped mirrors and create some fun around it, says Rohina Anand Khira, Owner of AA Living. Keep the rest of the walls white, as it will be easy for you to make changes in the room as the child grows.
- Payal Karumbiah, Founder and Principal Designer of The Baby Atelier suggests that if you are designing a playroom for a young boy and a girl, it should have enough storage space. You can plan an activity wall where kids can explore and showcase their work, a room they can use until they are around ten years old.
- Go for innovative storage solutions like a dresser that looks good with accessories that are displayed, and can also help store the child's daily essentials.

1. Baby Collection, Janavi 2. Cheery Yellow Bunting, available at The Yellow Dwelling 3. Lighthouse shaped cushion, available at The Yellow Dwelling 4. Percy Travel Mug available at M&S Home 5. Bosa available at Sources Unlimited 6. Room Designed by Eshita Marwah 7. Mango Wood Multipurpose Decorative Printed Wall Plate By Logam from Pepperry 8. Room Designed by Payal Karumbiah, Founder and Principal Designer, The Baby Atelier







## BUY SMART

- The knick-knacks you buy for your kid's space are another way of showing your love for them and making them feel pampered.
- Go for products that are full of expressions and made with kid-friendly materials.
- While buying things for the kid's room, Rohina Anand Khira, Owner of AA Living, advises focusing on a practical, easy-to-use clean component. Put a lot of rugs in materials like polycotton as they are easy to maintain.
- A kid's room will be host to innumerable activities so bring in products that shoulder perfect balance in their shape and colour. Before you get carried away with buying all you like, give a thought to all the things that will actually get used by the child and will be useful to him for a longer period of time. And if the child is at an age wherein he can identify his own preferences, then plan a purchase in accordance to those preferences.

1. Room Designed by Meenu Aggarwal, Founder and Interior Designer, MADS Creations 2. Superia Monkey Wall Clock in Multicolour By Kidz from Pepperfry 3. Kids Room Collection by Obeetee 4. Percy Pig Dinner Set for Kids available at M&S Home 5. Kids Room Collection by Obeetee 6. Black Star Queen Duvet Cover available at The Baby Atelier





## BUY SMART

- Go Natural. Use materials that are not child-like but can still be fun to explore, like rattan, wicker and natural wood colours.
- While planning draperies, make sure that they don't hang to the floor as this could hinder their movement and also be unsafe.
- As experts recommend, light is a critical feature for the room and should be installed appropriately. Though natural light works best for the little ones as it puts less strain on the eyes, add task lighting for more focused work like studying or drawing. For a smooth sleep time, lights with dimmer control can work best instead of regular ones

1. Room Designed by Payal Karumbiah, Founder and Principal Designer, The Baby Atelier 2. Baby Collection by Janavi 3. Room Designed by Anil Badan, Founder and Principal Architect, Studio B Architect 4. Room Designed by Romilla Tewari, Founder and Creative Head of Think Cutieful 5. Astrotoy, Wall Shelf in Blue Colour Boings! from Pepperfry







## FUNCTIONAL SPACES

- A vibrant work-cum-study space and a small child-friendly kitchenette can give enough room for the child to flow his creative juices in.
- Florals and stripes are all-time girls' favourites. So you use them generously in the room as accents, on cushions and curtains or even on the wall.
- While designing a space for two kids, plan the layout according to available space. A multi-functional bunk bed with storage and display can work well for the two kids.
- Think out of the box and use open shelves to display books, toys, awards and accessories created by your child. Rohina Anand Khira, Owner of AA Living shares that kids really take pride in their work, so have a space in the room where they can showcase their artworks. This creates a sense of accomplishment in them. Additionally, this gives the room a more personal touch.
- Go for innovative storage solutions, like a dresser that looks good with accessories displayed and can also help store the child's daily essentials.

1. Room Designed by Priyanka Singh, Director, VO Living 2. Room Designed by Smitha Zachariah, Founder and Principal Designer, ZxP Design 3. Tumidei available at Ottimo 4. Kumpal Vaid, Founder and Principal Designer, Purple Backyard 5. Room Designed by Hardesh Chawla and Monica Chawla, Founders and Interior Designers, Essentia Environments



SPECIAL FEATURE

# MOODBOARD

## A CHILD'S PLAY

- The importance of a playful space for kids cannot be understated for it is as vital as their sleep and food. Isha Gopal, Founder of Bloon Toys suggests separating entertainment from play as true play is self-chosen and self-directed. So it is essential to have toys that allow children to use them in different ways at different times.
- Infuse a soft touch with quilts, bedding or bolsters in cotton or muslin that are high on comfort but with prints that can enthrall the child and encourage an easy transit from playtime to sleep time.

1. Bloon Pikler MAX + Bloon Pikler Hammock, available at Bloon Toys  
 2. Room Designed by Meenu Aggarwal, Founder and Interior Designer, MAD5 Creations  
 3. Haathi Mere Saathi Cotton Infant Set, available at Good Earth  
 4. It's All About Home 5. Dog Print Baby Blanket available at The Baby Atelier





## SPECIAL FEATURE



## MIX AND MATCH

- Play with soft furnishings and mix and match graphic patterns with a single pop colour cushion for a stunning effect.
- Stimulate young minds with a plethora of colours, textures and shapes. Geometrically shaped rugs or even a play mat generate instant interest and add much life to the otherwise simple room. The more the children see and feel around them, the faster is their learning process and their ability to understand and connect with the outer world.
- Go for fabrics and furnishings with mild or soft textures, tone on tone, and no striking embellishments as they can harm the kid.

1. Kids Room Collection by Obeteetee 2. Room Designed by Priyanka Singh, Director, VO Living 3. Room Designed by Smitha Zachariah, Founder and Principal Designer ZxP Design 4. Set of 4 Percy Pig Picnic Highballs available at M&S Home 5. Kids Room Collection by Obeteetee 6. IOTA 7. Bloon Toys





1

2

## COLOUR CHEER

- Small additions like a colourful bunting can change the look of the room. A decorative element, you can hang them anywhere in the bedroom - on a curtain rod or even entrance of the room.
- Choose colour combinations that are harmonious and well-balanced with the furniture and are in keeping with the style and look of the room.
- Don't follow cliches and go for just pinks for girls and blue for boys in the room. Go for a single colour and keep the remaining areas of the room neutral. Introduce a colour pop through accessories, cushions, toys or any other accent piece that would bring joy to the child.
- If there is no particular room assigned for the kid, it's okay to create a child-friendly corner and use colourful magnets or ribbons to display their pictures on cupboards or walls.

1. Marine Blue Bunting, available at The Yellow Dwelling 2. Room Designed by Smitha Zachariah, Founder and Principal Designer, ZxP Design 3. Coordonné available at Nirmals Furnishings 4. Kids Room Collection by Obeetee 5. Casa Bohemia by Open Atelier Mumbai

3



5

4

SPECIAL FEATURE

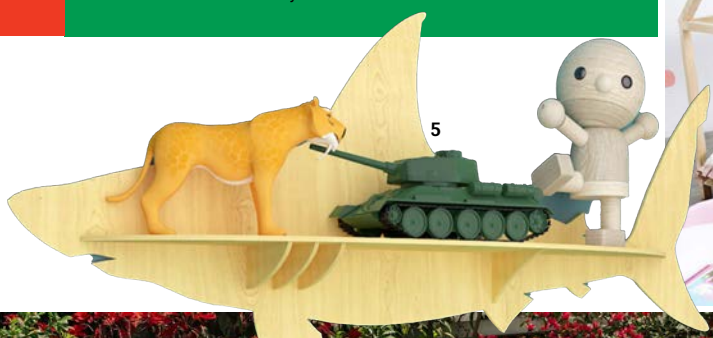
# GET INSPIRED



## TENTS AND TOYS!

- Easy to assemble and move, tents are an excellent way to experience fun indoors and outdoors. An instant me-zone for kids of all ages, tents have become an essential fun spot for kids to cuddle up in, eat, party or read - trust us, your kids will surely love every bit of their time spent in it!
- According to Isha Gopal, Founder of Bloon Toys, tents are a great addition to a play space as they give kids a core to build their games around it. A tent is capable of some incredible shape-shifting in kids' minds; it can be a house, a cave, a mine, a shop, a ship, or a cockpit. It also gives them a space inside the home that is their own - and this is something very precious and safe.

1. Kids Room Collection by Obeetee 2. Miya Mithoo Kids Tent available at, Good Earth 3. Bloon Pikler MAX + Bloon Pikler Tent, Bloon Toys 4. Cheery yellow tee pee tent with bed, available at The Yellow Dwelling 5. Shark Shaped Shelf in Oak Finish By WallMantra from Pepperfry 6. Kids Room Collection by Obeetee





## SPECIAL FEATURE



2

## TELL A TALE

- Go for a gender-neutral theme, like a nursery that creates an impression of a room submerged in the sea. Use a palette filled with blue, white, greys and hints of ocean-inspired colours along with removable furniture, and plenty of wall art to complete the look.
- Let loose your imagination and plan a daydreamer's paradise for your little one and design them with a touch of whimsy. Tie the space together with cohesive colours, elements and details, and see how the room narrates a story.
- Have fun with shapes and forms, and create a clean palette with subtle décor elements to lend freshness to the room. Create an expression wall like a slate board wall that will coax the kid to express freely. Right from the storybook, add a playful triangular top storage unit and a fun bunny-shaped shelf.
- Add classical and ornate elements to give a princess room vibe and go for white and dusty pink shades to keep it contemporary. The bed with a carved design in gold finish on the headboard and the curtain ring is the focal point of this regal bedroom with a European flair. Everything in the room complements the luxurious bed, ranging from mirrors and shelves to the dresser. Such rooms are a delight as they grow along with the child for some years.



4



3

1. Room Designed by Romilla Tewari, Founder and Creative Director, Think Cutieful. 2. Room Designed by Interior Designer, Eshita Marwah  
3. Room Designed by Aparna Kaushik, Founder and Architect, Aparna Kaushik Design Group. 4. Room Designed by Priyanka Khanna and Rudraksh Charan - Founders and Architects, 42MM Architecture





## FARAH AHMED MATHIAS,

Co-Founder and Principal Designer,  
FADD Studio

The inspiration for our kid's room was our family and our lifestyle. What inspires me and my husband are the colours that work with us. I am not a designer who likes kiddy rooms because you get bored over a year or two, and the child might not like motifs like a unicorn or hot-air balloons. So, my advice would be to design the room for yourself if the kids are under eight years of age as you would want to see what you like in the room as you spend maximum time in their room. Soon after, when they tend to spend more time with their friends, you can take the lead from them and understand what they want and then the function of the space.

I have two children's rooms, and I am very particular that they should share a room even though we have two rooms. In one room, they sleep and share the bed, cupboard, bathroom and desk space, and the other room is a playroom where they share the shelving space, toys, and table space. The elements of each room design are based on this sensibility of two people being able to share two shared spaces. There are design elements in their sleep room that reminded me of them, so I designed wall panels and framed their first clothing above their bed. Colour-wise, in the boy's room, it's a blue and a grey, whereas in the girl's room, it's a pista, a blush, and a grey, and the same colour sensibilities follow in the bathrooms.







**MEENU AGGARWAL,**  
*Founder and Interior Designer, MADS Creations*

Beautiful tonal shades of pastel with pink and blue accent hues create a charming environment in my elder daughter's room. It's a soothing space with wooden flooring and walls are decorated with laminate cladding and wallpaper.

The room evokes a calm atmosphere with muted shades that are perfectly balanced with bright hues and gold details. The round chair clad in vibrant pink fabric attracts immediate attention amidst a mostly muted background. Its generous proportions and multiple cushions make it an inviting and cosy piece of furniture. The blue of the study table adds another bright accent shade to the room, and a delicate chandelier in gold makes a statement.

A chic bedroom designed for my younger daughter stands out with its oval bed and some quirky design elements. A sportsperson who is also into music, her room reflects her passions. The wooden flooring and a blue and yellow palette sets a bright yet warm tone, and a collection of slender mirrors and corner light add modern décor touches. The fabric-clad yellow armchair adds a pop of colour to the corner, while the animal-shaped footrest brings a dose of quirkiness.





### **SARAH SHAM,** *Principal Designer, Essajees Atelier*

My daughter, Sophia, is in this phase where she enjoys seeing plants, greenery and animals, so we went ahead with a jungle theme for her room. Keeping it all minimal, we ensured that the room design was simple and there was a lot of open space. The furniture is kept minimal, as kids love all the extra space to play! I have used elements like wallpaper, décor, art & accessories such as hanging lights to add that element of playfulness. We have added a crib and one sofa-bed along with a chest of drawers that doubles as a changing station for that nursery kind of feeling.

My favourite element to make a kid's room enjoyable is to add a lot of plants. We all live in polluted cities, and fresh oxygen is essential for children. I recommend incorporating three plants for every 100sqft as it naturally purifies the air. Along with plants, you can also add tall planters if you feel that kids might play with the soil from the small planters.

Over the years, I have realised that as kids grow, their tastes and preferences change every two years. So, avoid large immovable design features with a strong childlike design element because you will have to change it after a few years.







## SHIFAA KALRA,

*Principal Designer, I'm The Centre for Applied Arts*

While creating a space for my kids, a two-year-old boy and a six-year-old girl, I ensured that it had to resonate with their varied personalities - spirited and imaginative at best. The entire space is flushed with juvenile energy exuded from the playfulness of the forms and a neutral colour palette intermixed with a pop of colour. The canopy bed shares the stage with a pool of handpicked child favourites like a small tent, a floor-spanning play mat, and many soft toys.

Although the bed is complete in blush seats and plush cushions, the sense of freedom is breathed in with an extravagant floor setup, adorned by a floor cushion and a throw with subtle animal prints all over, giving a child ample space to be. The softened flow of geometry accompanies the delicate patterns, coming through the clustered spheres of light. The chequered weave of the rug, striped panels of the louvres and polygonal frames of the bed and the bookshelf variegate a child's visual interest.

The entire expanse of the space stays lit within the blackout curtains, which are placed to control the natural light in the room, giving the flexibility to build a routine, with comforting warm lighting from the statement floor lamps and pendants. It takes over a part of the floor and the ceiling, enhancing the aesthetics of the room.

The interiors are bound by its elegant yet eloquent style, brought by the versatility of these details over a predominantly subdued mood board with carefully placed elements standing out in contrast.



# A SANCTUARY, CALLED HOME

For designer Swati Seraan, designing her home proved to be a cathartic process. In this exclusive, she throws open the doors to her artistic, eclectic and vibrant home in Bengaluru

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA**  
PHOTOGRAPHS **NAYAN SONI**







“

EVERY CORNER REFLECTS MY STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESS. MY HOME IS A PLUSH MIX OF ART THAT IS NOT NECESSARILY PURCHASED FROM STORES OR GALLERIES, EVERY PIECE TELLS A STORY. MY FAMILY ROOM IS PEPPERED WITH ART I CREATED DURING MY TRANSITION FROM CORPORATE LIFE TO THIS FIELD OF HOME DESIGNING.

— Swati Seraan, Homeowner and Founder, By The Riverside





Designed and executed during a transitory phase of her life, designer Swati Seraan's home is an ode to her fearless nature. In this guided tour she takes us around her eclectic and soulful home where an envious curation of art, carefully cultivated foliage, and a generous splattering of all things eclectic, co-exist. As soon as one opens the door, it's like walking through the hallowed corridors of an art gallery curated with eccentric but extremely tasteful pieces. Colour pops into the frame throughout this wonderful little oasis of lush green.





“

MY HOME HAS ITS OWN ECO-SYSTEM...JUST LIKE ME, NOTHING ABOUT IT IS STATIC. IT IS AN ONGOING PIECE OF WORK AND IS FOREVER EVOLVING. I AM ALWAYS EXPERIMENTING. THE ONLY CONSTANT: IT IS FULL OF PLANTS, ART AND SCULPTURES.

— Swati Seraan, Homeowner and Founder, By The Riverside







## SWATI SERAAN

**Homeowner and Founder,  
By The Riverside**

Right from her childhood, Swati Seraan wanted to be a creator. She used to spend a lot of time creating paintings or orchestrating fun activities or dance shows. Cut to present day, today the self-taught designer and founder of By The Riverside has garnered an admirable fan following for her evocative executions. Swati's forte is natural, rustic textures, and her home is a true reflection of her love for a rooted and grounded style narrative. From the meld of vibrant colours with a highly tactile material narrative to the evocative curation of art... this home is unapologetically maximalist in style with a soul-stirring statement to make.



MY HOME IS ALL ABOUT ME. IT'S A HAPPY MIX OF VARIOUS THINGS. FROM MODERN TO ECLECTIC STYLE, TO A COLLECTION OF ART MADE UP OF ANCIENT PIECES AND TRADITIONAL AND MODERN WORKS.

— Swati Seraan, Homeowner and Founder, By The Riverside







“  
WHEREVER YOU ARE IN THE HOUSE,  
THE TERRACE IS A SENSORIAL TREAT.  
THE STYLE CELEBRATES AN UNBRIDLED  
SENSE OF FREEDOM.

— Swati Seraan, Homeowner and Founder, By The Riverside



Swati Seraan of By The Riverside is known for her design sensibility that pivots on creating soulful spaces. For her own home, a 3,300sqft penthouse in Bengaluru, Swati creates an expanse that brings nature's beautiful bounty into the heart of her home. From foliage to colour palette, she weaves the narrative of a tropical haven with an eclectic twist. Her personal curation of art, which she has created or acquired, punctuates the walls of this home with evocative meanings.

Designing her own home was a cathartic process. She says, “14 years ago, my family and I moved into this home. Eight years later, I separated from my husband and post that I began my evolution as a designer. I started experimenting with the design of my home and stepped into the next and best phase of my life as an interior designer.” Swati found herself and her unique designer voice while leaning into the design of her home.

Today, her home is all about her. Every corner reflects her strengths and weakness. “My home is a mix of everything. Over the years, instead of replacing things, I have changed furnishings, added wallpapers, and more. I have also built my office studio on the terrace which looks nothing less than a cosy cottage on hills.” 🏡



HOME

# NESTLED IN SERENITY

Architects Prashant Trivedi and Saumil Patel of Squelette Design bring to life the vision of a weekend home with a natural and peaceful vibe, for their client in Ahmedabad

FEATURE **VANITA ARORA** PHOTOGRAPHS **PHX INDIA**







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*Our objective was not only to connect the space and palette but to give indirect interpretations through materials and patterns also.*

— **Prashant Trivedi and Saumil Patel**, Founders and Principal Architects, Squelette Design

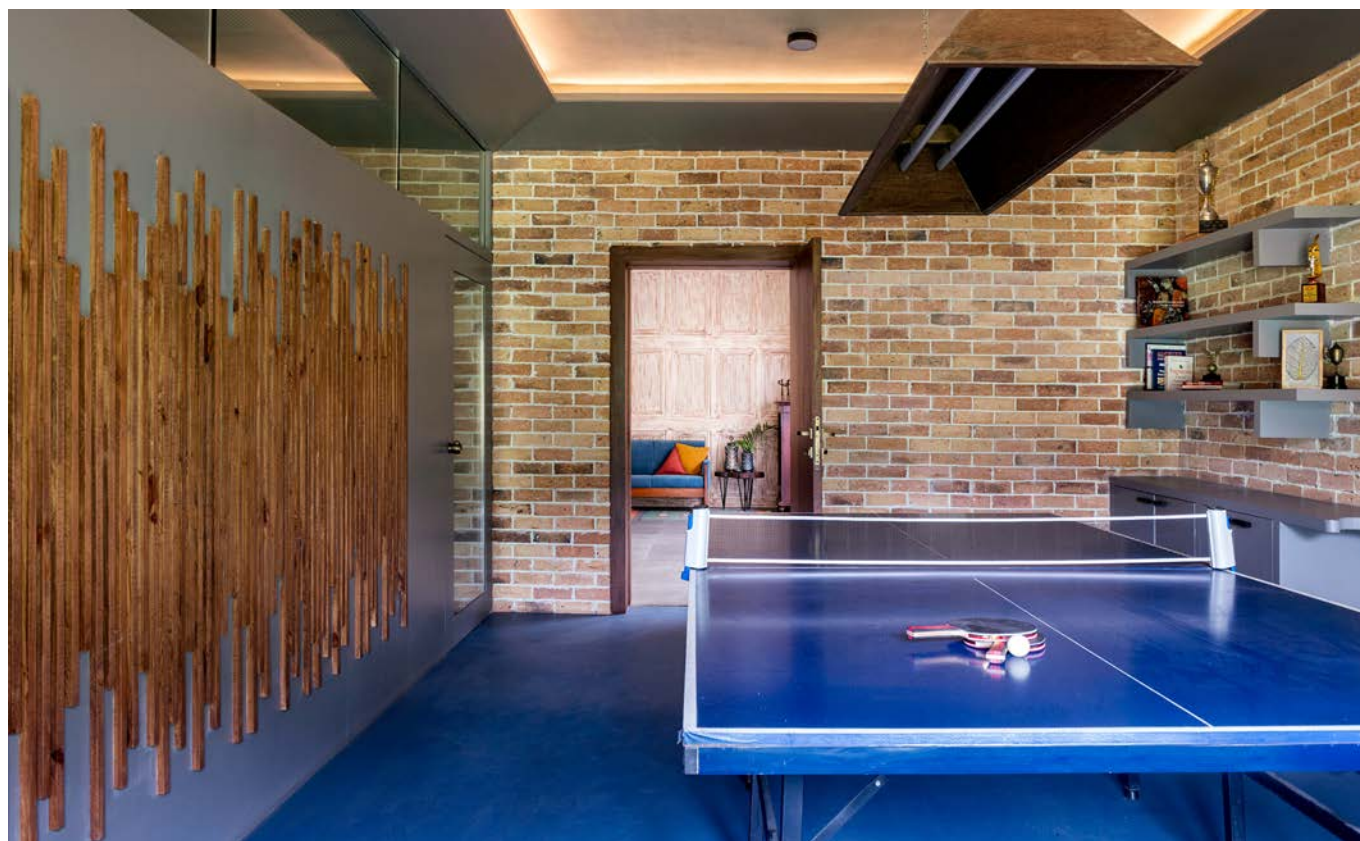




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The client's old collection of  
traditional pol house art has been  
conserved and mingled with  
contemporary artwork.

— Prashant Trivedi and Saumil Patel, Founders and Principal  
Architects, Squelette Design

The informal room  
has rustic brick  
cladding to give  
it a raw look, just  
like the other  
spaces designed.  
It has been  
merged with an  
acoustic wooden  
panel due to the  
adjacent home  
theatre space.







*Each space in the house has been designed to cater to multiple activities and is integrated with nature.*

— Prashant Trivedi and Saumil Patel, Founders and Principal Architects, Squelette Design







## PRASHANT TRIVEDI AND SAUMIL PATEL

**Founders and Principal Architects,  
Squelette Design**

With a collective vision and passion for designing, two best friends, Prashant and Saumil, established an architectural firm called Squelette Design in 2017. True to its name Squelette, meaning skeleton, they firmly believe in designing the core, the skeleton of the edifice, aesthetically and functionally. From architecture to landscape to interiors of the space, they believe that innovation, up-gradation, and meticulous detailing remain the key to the triumph of all their projects. According to them, designing is more about evaluating the space and using natural materials to give it a distinct form and identity.





“

*We keep exploring a variable design language. What makes it more original and unusual are the core principles of our design by controlling lines and colour palettes, along with balancing art and its orientation in the space.*

— Prashant Trivedi and Saumil Patel, Founders and Principal Architects, Squelette Design



earthy tones, contemporary design, and rustic details, this 2,500sqft house in Telav, Ahmedabad, is an oasis of calm.

Prashant Trivedi and Saumil Patel of Squelette Design were given the brief to refurbish the space with a warm and natural vibe, and transform it into a weekend home for the family to unwind and enjoy gatherings with friends. The design team also included Tanushree Dwivedi, Jay Suthar and Jay Sompura.

On their first visit to the place, Prashant and Saumil found that the existing structure was gloomy from the inside and derogated from the vistas of multi-layered landscaping. Transforming from an old structure to a newer one was one of the biggest challenges faced by the duo, as some of the structural elements were wearing off. The owners also wanted them to refurbish the existing furniture and some artefacts as well.

“We believe that natural life is all about re-establishing a connect with self and the natural environment. Our objective was not only to connect the space and palette but to give indirect interpretations through materials and patterns also. Not only this, the client’s old collection of traditional pol house art has been conserved and mingled with contemporary artwork,” they say.

Though there was a lean budget assigned to the design team, no compromise was made in terms of the materials used. In order to keep the earthy touch intact, Saumil and Prashant have tried to infuse different elements into the space, like wooden carved elements, exposed brick, and even used handmade fabrics. “Usually we design the space and then put in the elements, but here we designed certain areas keeping in mind the elements, like a free standing wooden carved mirror in one of the rooms,” they explain. As part of the re-evaluating process, they added a skylight to the courtyard, which is a common space between the living and dining areas. Overall, there is a befitting charm that engulfs the entire space with its openness and the sublime play of light and shadow. ■



# NATURALLY NORDIC

Designed by Amardeep Gulri of Deco-Arte, this house in New Delhi exudes a complete sense of tranquillity and functionality in Nordic style

FEATURE **VANITA ARORA** PHOTOGRAPHS **ROHAN DAYAL**



*A home reflects the taste and personality of its owner; and with correct planning, the designer can bind the space together with all the elements and create a perfect place for its occupants.*

— Amardeep Gulri, Founder and Principal Designer, Deco-Arte





## AMARDEEP GULRI

**Founder and Principal  
Designer, Deco-Arté**

Amardeep started his journey as an intern in Ukraine with a marketing firm, followed by three years as a banker at Citibank. Soon he started a marketing firm for architectural hardware, which finally resulted in opening his own multi-disciplinary interior and architectural design studio, Deco-Arté, in 2010, which helped him realise his dream of designing unique spaces across residential, commercial, hospitality and retail sectors.

Conscientiously, Amardeep had set up a mood board and then decided on the colours and textures to complement the space. The interior palette is subtle, and colour is used to accentuate the space.







The team at Deco-Arte designed bespoke furniture for the bedrooms using natural materials, such as leather, wood, and hemp. The artwork, furniture and accessories brought in a touch of finesse, whereas the view of the surroundings organically added a natural element.



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*This 7,022sqft home speaks a distinctive design language with a blend of unique elements. The decorative accents used are simple in design yet accentuate the space.*

— Amardeep Gulri, Founder and Principal Designer, Deco-Arte



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*Comfortable furniture, natural shapes, naturally lit spaces, and a Scandinavian aesthetic conjure a warm and welcoming atmosphere.*

— Amardeep Gulri, Founder and Principal Designer, Deco-Arte

**M**ixed materials, cool tones, textural spaces, and all things Nordic – this penthouse at New Delhi’s plush address, DLF King’s Court, is a project designed by Deco-Arte, steered by Amardeep Gulri. Tucked away from the hustle and bustle of the city, the house is a delight to stay in as it connects with nature through acres of scenic views of the Jahanpanah forest. With amazing surroundings like this, Amardeep had a clear vision to go ahead with a Nordic design language that is minimal, uncluttered, and done with natural materials like leather, wood, and hemp.

Inspired by the owners’ tastes - the concept, colours, and furniture were so edgy that it was easy for the design team to pull off a minimalistic Scandinavian design. The artwork, furniture and accessories brought in a touch of finesse, whereas the view of the surroundings organically added a natural element. “We have customised furniture for the bedrooms with natural materials and decorated the home with elegant ceramic vases. To add texture and subtle colour, we have highlighted the couches with throws and pillows with simple geometric prints,” shares Amardeep.

Once inside, you will witness the interplay of light, with a sense of openness, luxury, and warmth. Conscientiously, Amardeep had set up a mood board and then decided on the colours and textures to complement the space. The interior palette is subtle, and colour is used to accentuate the space. He also experimented with varied materials and combinations like metal with wood, wood with glass and even used cane and other textures to break the monotony.

“The idea was to strike the right balance and maintain the integrity of each material used. We were fortunate to get a client that insisted on a simple, multifunctional, and a timeless design rather than a luxurious home,” sums up Amardeep. 





# EMBRACING MINIMALISM

Aman Bhayana and Sugandhi Mehrotra focus on celebrating the inherent nature of their open-plan home in New Delhi by opting for a design narrative reflective of their graceful selves

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA** PHOTOGRAPHS **AVESH GAUR**



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*The concept hinged on breathing fresh life into the house where different spaces flow seamlessly to create a multifunctional open plan, primarily so that light can enter the entire house.*

— Aman Bhayana and Sugandhi Mehrotra, Homeowners and Founders, Stem



Wrapped around the expansive living room is a strong ode to artisanal crafts. The rawness of an 85-year-old Naga table gets accentuated by a handwoven rug that features contemporary colour blocking.



*The refurbishment of our family home included designing with a minimal approach that focuses on an interplay of textures and materials. The neutral palette acts as a canvas, exhibiting artworks and artefacts collected over time.*

— Aman Bhayana and Sugandhi Mehrotra,  
Homeowners and Founders, Stem







## AMAN BHAYANA AND SUGANDHI MEHROTRA

### Homeowners and Founders, Stem

Aman Bhayana and Sugandhi Mehrotra are young, enthusiastic, and brimming with energy. They have much to say and much to share with the world. Their labour of love, Stem, is a multidisciplinary design atelier that transforms rudimentary everyday items into works of art. The studio's work engages in creating a deeper connection with our surroundings. The objects, designed for a conscious consumer talk about the timelessness in design and material. Ask them what they do, and they ever so eloquently say, "We believe there is a moment of the perfect balance when an object becomes a manifestation of an emotion or a culture."

The bedrooms carry forward the same languid yet charged design language that the main living areas celebrate. Every room has artworks in the foreground that reflect the personalities of the people who use it.





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*The open kitchen allows everyone to come together and be a part of the daily routine, making it a welcoming social hub for the family. The use of veneer, together with the groove panelling in white walls and existing Italian flooring, creates a very subtle mood in the space.*


— Aman Bhayana and Sugandhi Mehrotra, Homeowners and Founders, Stem

**T**he 1,200sqft expanse of this home wasn't enough for Aman Bhayana and Sugandhi Mehrotra. The designers and founders of Stem, a multidisciplinary and Avant-garde home décor studio in the Capital, had to dig deep and approached the refurbishment of their home in a meticulous way. They began piecing together, from concept to plan to execution, a spatial treatment that seamlessly incorporated the depth and nuances they so desired for their home. As a result of their intervention and purist design sensibilities, their family home, with two bedrooms, a living space, and an open kitchen, is designed with a minimalistic style approach that focuses on a delicate interplay of textures and materials.

Aman and Sugandhi were unperturbed about sticking to one style. As opposed to viewing minimalism as limiting, they introduced a meld of mid-century meets modern meets traditional elements to overlap the muted scheme and curate a well-rounded soothing expanse. With this, the house becomes organic, deeply layered and fearless for its dynamic design voice. While the palette is muted, an interesting juxtaposition lies in the way textures and colours play off each other to introduce vivacity to an otherwise monochromatic expanse.

It all starts with the anchoring space – the living room. It's not just a living room though. It's got a light-wood kitchen tucked in the corner, with a breakfast nook. Wrapped around the expansive living room is a strong ode to artisanal crafts. Take, for instance, the rawness of an 85-year-old Naga table, this gets accentuated by the handwoven rug with contemporary colour blocking. Similarly, artworks by Aman himself punctuate this home with a distinct edge that has a timeless touch.

When it came to accessorising, the couple didn't hold back. The duo took charge and experimented with high-octave materials and textiles. The layering doesn't stop here but progresses to the lighting as well. Though natural light is abundant, they have added interesting wall sconces, hanging lights and table ones, besides functional, concealed ceiling lights.

Designing this home was a step-by-step process, but it's the elegant warmth that ties it all together into one large, homely package. 





# REFINED ELEGANCE

The Melange Studio has deftly transformed the bare shell of this New Delhi house, giving it a crisp new identity through smart spatial planning and well-conceptualised interiors

FEATURE **AVNI RAUT** PHOTOGRAPHS **AVESH GAUR**

STYLE THE MELANGE STUDIO





Initially, the firm was brought on board only to design the interiors, but upon inspecting the space, the team realised that the structure required proper planning and worked out a layout. "The existing dark and dingy structure lacked proper planning and was completely devoid of a welcoming experience. Once we were appointed, out of curiosity we created a floor plan which suited their needs and convinced them to start from scratch. They agreed and gave it a shot," say Pranvi, Anjali and Dhruv, Co-Founders of The Melange Studio.







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THE STAIRCASE IS  
DESIGNED TO BECOME A  
SHOWSTOPPING ELEMENT  
AND A FOCAL POINT OF  
THE RESIDENCE.

— Pranvi Jain, Anjali Aggarwal and Dhruv,  
Co-Founders, The Melange Studio



The accent walls in the bedrooms feature a discerning composition of materials, colours and patterns, lending perfectly to the overall décor scheme of the respective spaces.



## PRANVI JAIN, ANJALI AGGARWAL AND DHRUV

### Co-Founders, The Melange Studio

Pranvi, Anjali and Dhruv met while studying at University School of Architecture and Planning, in New Delhi, and ended up becoming the best of friends. It was their common vision of creating a meaningful impact and elevating the quality of life of users through well-designed spaces that led them to establishing a multi-disciplinary architecture and interior design firm together. They always seek to provide innovative design solutions while fulfilling client briefs to the T, leading to the creation of unique spatial narratives.







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DEVELOPING A SENSE  
OF CONNECTIVITY AND  
CONTINUITY WAS THE MAIN  
IDEA BEHIND THE LAYOUT  
OF THE RESIDENCE.

— *Pranvi Jain, Anjali Aggarwal and Dhruv,*  
Co-Founders, The Melange Studio



Each corner of the home is meticulously articulated. And the palette that dictates the aesthetics of the interiors includes wood, glass, marble, brass, and neutral tones, with infusions of bold colours that create visual interest.



Crafted with finesse and a keen attention to detailing, this 8,000sqft residence by The Melange Studio oozes refined elegance. Thoughtful interventions by the team have led to the creation of a home that doesn't just impress with its aesthetics but also renders a more streamlined spatial flow that aligns with the clients' needs. "Keeping the existing RCC bare shell of the residence intact, the layout spaces were planned around it. Vastu shastra also played a very important role in the allocation of activities," say the architects.

There are two entrances on the ground floor, the one in the front leads directly into the formal drawing room while the second one, which is used regularly by the residents, is accessible via a walkway and opens up into the lobby space. The flooring pattern at the entrance of the formal living room visually defines the entry patio, with the lobby space on the first floor articulated in a similar fashion. The entry patio then transitions into the seating zone that comprises comfortable sofas, an ottoman, centre tables with marble inlay work, and patterned rugs placed underneath. This is paired with abstract

artwork, and lighting fixtures that seem to embody a sculptural quality and discreetly add to the elegance of the space.

The kitchen with a centrally positioned island flows into the dining area, while the family living area is placed diagonally opposite and is separated via sliding doors. "The three spaces are interconnected through the design elements and similar materials used in different ways and on different surfaces," they say. The cynosure of the house is the staircase, that awes with its arresting form.

The spacious master bedroom is articulated in wood and darker tones, paired with infusions of grey. The wood-clad wall stands in stark contrast to the charcoal hued headboard while the seating zone features furniture in curved forms. The parents' bedroom is understated in its visual expression and includes a sleek and contemporary sofa seating within. The panelled wall behind the bed embellished with a delicately patterned wallpaper poses as an accent wall here.

The daughter's bedroom is dipped in a palette of wood and light colours, paired with a limited dose of maroon and fluted surfaces, while the son's bedroom is designed as a space that reflects a young and dynamic spirit. The guest bedroom, integrated with a skylight, is largely immersed in a neutral colour palette and is adorned with nature inspired artworks. **EN**



# PASTEL POPS

Experience the charm of this plush Gurugram home through rose-tinted glasses that amplify beautiful vistas and a stunning design

FEATURE **NEERJA KAPADIA** PHOTOGRAPHY **TARANG GOYAL**







## KOMAL RUSTAGI

Principal Designer, Storey Tellers Design Studio

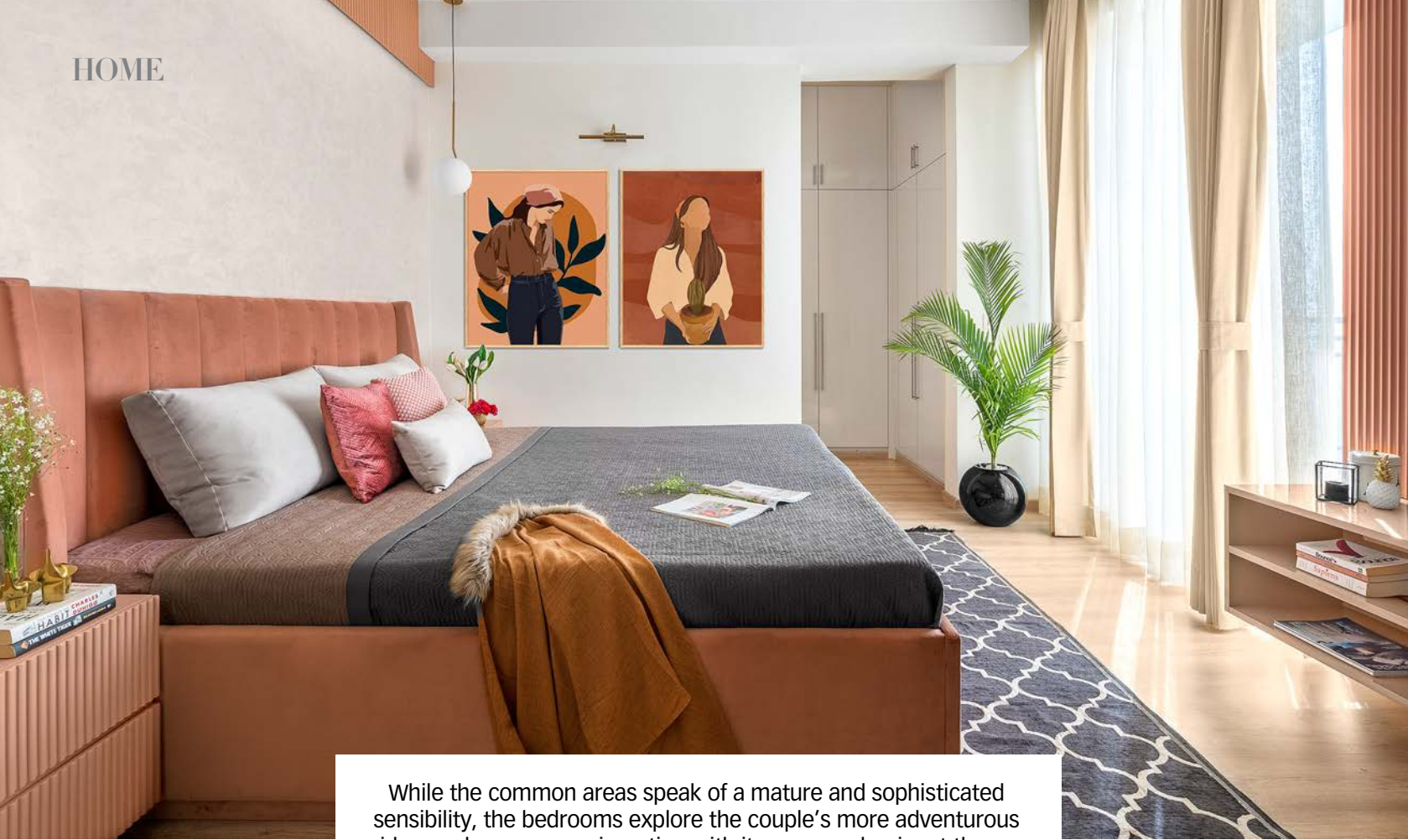
Komal Rustagi heads the Creative and Design team of Storey Tellers Design Studio. After completing her bachelor's in architecture, she studied master's in interior and living design from Domus Academy, Milan. She has worked with eminent architectural firms in Delhi and London, learning the nuances of design and detailing prevalent in modern architecture. She established Mulberry Design Studio in 2021, conceptualising design centric projects and later joined forces with Tanbeer Kazi and Prakash Srivastava to found Storey Tellers LLP later that year. To create spaces that tell a story has been the driving force for her to start a design studio, exploring further into the field of interior design and living.

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**WHEN WE CONCEPTUALISED THE INTERIORS FOR THIS HOME, WE FOCUSSED ON THE NEW AGE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CLIENTS, ALSO KEEPING IN MIND THEIR DESIGN SENSIBILITIES. THE HOME, AS A RESULT, ATTESTS TO THE FUN, YET SOPHISTICATED PERSONALITY OF THE COUPLE.**

— **Komal Rustagi**, Principal Designer, Storey Tellers Design Studio





While the common areas speak of a mature and sophisticated sensibility, the bedrooms explore the couple's more adventurous side - each room experimenting with its own predominant theme. The furniture and fixed cabinetry were designed and made in-house to achieve the aesthetics envisioned for the space.







**ECHOES OF MATERIALS, TONES AND TEXTURES EXTEND THROUGHOUT THE SPACE, BRINGING TOGETHER ALL THE VARIED SPATIAL ELEMENTS. ADDING A QUIRKY TOUCH IS ALL THE ARTWORK WHICH IS PROUDLY DISPLAYED ALL OVER THE HOUSE.**

— Komal Rustagi, Principal designer, StoreyTellers Design Studio


A mix of luxury and simple colour-play formulate an elegantly quirky ensemble in this high-rise 3BHK apartment. Conceived in a way that treads lightly on the eyes, the entire layout has a vibrant and free-spirited flavour. Pops of colour are intended to highlight certain elements throughout the home, which are situated in a composition of contemporary tastes. The rooms, each with an attached balcony, are conceptualised carefully. The residence represents the urbane, cosmopolitan outlook on life of the young family it is designed for.

Upon entering the home, one is welcomed into the living room which is set in soft pink shades which are balanced by the dark tones of a backlit entertainment unit. Standing across from the couches, a TV unit displays the family's art collection. A geometric patterned rug beneath the nesting coffee tables brings a contemporary twist to the space vis-à-vis the classical wall trims

behind the sofa. Vivid blue ottomans and wall art set off the blush tones dominating the space.

The dining area is set around a back-painted glass-topped table, a bar and a display cabinet in dark tones.

The master bedroom is greeted by an expanse of coral. A fluted wall panel reaches down from the ceiling to a TV console that extends along the wall, which then steps up a level to create a floating vanity.

The guest bedroom is dominated by varied shades of blue with the delicately textured wall serving as a serene backdrop for the starburst patterned headboard. In contrast, most of the millwork is finished in a milky white palette. The second guest bedroom is tastefully washed in a sage green colour that takes centre stage in the furnishings. A floor-to-ceiling mirror faces the entrance to the room and a rounded-corner headboard in a pistachio shade stretches out to the far edges of both bedside tables. 



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