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INDIA TODAY HOME

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VOL. 17 NUMBER 5; MAY 2022

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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY: ASIAN PAINTS



Photograph by PRASHANT BHAT: Photograph courtesy OPEN ATELIER MUMBAI

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Photograph by CHANDRADEEP KUMAR

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Your guide to the hottest new stores and products
By RIDHI KALE



New Direction

Here's an interesting development, Wonderchef has forayed into the homeware category. The extensive range covers all kinds of tableware, barware, cutlery, glasses, linen, serve ware, and dinnerware in bone china, fine bone china, and stoneware.

PRICE ₹300 to ₹18,000
AT www.wonderchef.com



OUT OF THE BLUE

House of Ekam's new indigo collection is worth a look. Each piece is created using traditional, ancient techniques of Dabu (resist printing) block printing in Bagru, Jaipur. Another artisanal craft used in this arresting collection is Shibori, a Japanese resist dyeing technique, renowned for its exquisite patterns.

PRICE on request
AT www.houseofekam.com



BEAUTIFY YOUR INTERIORS

Spread across a 4,000 sq ft, Studio 7, the brainchild of Nekunj Kedia, retails furniture, accessories and furnishings. The Kolkata-based store is divided into bedroom, living space and dining concepts to help the consumers visualise the designs in their space.

PRICE on request

AT Studio 7, 74, Shakespeare Sarani Road Opposite-HDFC Bank, towards 7 Point -Park Circus, Kolkata



Gizmo GAGA

From new tech toys to reviews and views, this is all you need to know about appliances for your home

By RIDHI KALE



TRIED AND TESTED

A CLEAN SWEEP

If the pandemic taught us anything it was that, we need gadgets to make our lives smarter and easier. And we found just the device—the iRobot® Roomba® i3+ robot vacuum cleaner. The only thing difficult about the device is the time it takes to unpack, rest is fairly simple. You need to charge it for three hours in the beginning and rest of the time the machine will dock automatically to charge. It has a three-stage cleaning system and uses dual multi-surface rubber brushes to ensure proper cleaning. It also has Dirt Detect technology that recognises and removes dirt from high-traffic spots at home. My personal favourite is the automatic dirt disposal function. It can empty up to 60 days worth of contents into the Clean Base, which doubles as a charging station. Its intelligent navigation system ensures a logical, neat row movement of the device through the rooms. I highly recommend it for cleaning under the bed. While I could not test this but its a really nice feature. If you have an Alexa or Google Assistant, you can pair your vacuum with it and use voice controls. Another great option is to download the iRobot Home App to really personalise the cleaning experience. Yes, like any vacuum cleaner, it makes noise, but I was able to watch TV easily while it moved around the room. Though the device isn't able to get into tiny crevices or weird corners, but it offers a pretty through cleaning. **PRICE** ₹49,900

REVIEW

Design Good
Efficiency Good
User Friendly Good
Verdict If money's not an issue then this device will make life a lot cleaner

LATEST LAUNCHES



CLEAR THE AIR

The iSmart-Inverter kitchen chimney from Elica saves up to 60 per cent power, can operate under flexible voltage, has reduced air-flow noise, motion sensors and capacitive touch control. **PRICE** ₹19,990

MICRO MANAGEMENT

Haier's new Microwave Convection Oven has 203 auto-cook menus, oil-free cooking option, stainless steel cavity, deodoriser, 99-minute cooking timer, defrosting option and child lock. **PRICE** ₹17,000





Bold and Playful

Syngle's favourite theme is We/Us. "This year un-gendering is a very strong theme. It's about rejecting stereotypes and entering a playful zone where we want to delink the whole gendering and hierarchy, leading to a space which nurtures choices, individuality and freedom," says Syngle.

Colour Cues The colour palette for We/Us is confident, liberated and adventurous. Cool colours with fresh undertones like Flowing Green and Nautilus, are balanced by bold colours like Mahua, French Rose and Moroccan Rose.

Material Matters Velvet, embellished tulle, chalk matte ceramic and high-gloss marble.

Wallpaper Frida's Garden, Carmen Collection by Nilaya.

Texture Ikkat, Royale Play Taana Baana.

FLOWING GREEN
7659

MOROCCAN ROSE
9994



NILAYA CARMEN
COLLECTION I
FRIDA'S GRADEN
W152XA51E75

QUICK TIP

Layering different patterns—geometric, intricate, large or floral—adds drama and enhances the disparity of colours in the space (left).

HUES IN CHARGE

Make way for chic, colour drenched interiors as Asian Paints announces trends for the year

By RIDHI KALE

Trend forecasting is a complex concept. A scene in the movie *The Devil Wears Prada* comes to mind. Miranda Priestly (Meryl Streep) tells her assistant (Anne Hathaway) why the sweater she is wearing has a particular shade of blue known as cerulean. Cerulean, she explains, was first seen in a collection by Oscar de la Renta then adopted by a number of other influential designers before it "filtered down" to mass produce stores. Like fashion, home too sees trend predictions, where companies pay almost anything to get it right. The good news is that Asian Paints has turned it into an art. This year is no different. From the colour of the year, Transcendent Pink to the decor trends under Colour Next 2022—Hope You're Well, Artify, Solo Commerce and We/Us—once again, the brand has proved to be light years ahead of the design curve. "These trends highlight concepts and ideas that are in the germination stage and will become big soon," says Amit Syngle, MD and CEO, Asian Paints.



COLOUR OF THE YEAR

Transcendent Pink (Clematis Pink-N K048) has been announced as the Colour of the Year 2022 by Asian Paints. "The year 2021 is behind us and in 2022 we want to embrace challenges and that can be a strong source of happiness. We step into a new day, powerfully-in-transition," says Syngle. A combination of blue and red, this greyish tone represents a mind that has the ability to synthesise new knowledge and old wisdom, and harness both. "A whole area of transition and metamorphosis is seen," adds Syngle.

PISTA
CREAM N
K156



Expressing Individuality

The theme Solo Commerce is about a new work culture. “It is all about the gig economy, getting fuelled by the rising aspirations and career expectations. Today people are able to do a lot of collaborative work while working from anywhere, on their own,” says Syngle.

Colour Cues This mature and energetic palette expresses qualities of self-motivation and freedom, as well as grit and perseverance. You will find Inca Ruins, Cedar Path, Pista Cream, White Forest, African Plain

and Fisherman’s Wharf.

Material Matters Hemp cotton canvas, MDF, perforated metals and performance textiles.

Wallpaper Sky Dance Wallpaper, Replay Collection by Nilaya
Texture Archi Concrete Fuso, Royale Play Material Finishes

QUICK TIP

Co-living spaces (*left*) present all the benefits of living independently yet communing with a vibrant community.

DOLLOP
7875



Digital Dreams

“Artify is more a visual theme,” says Syngle, adding, “NFTs have disrupted the structures of the art world. Artists have directly reached out to collectors, curators, galleries and auction houses, leaving out the traditional routes. It has also opened doors for anyone to own authentic art, digitally.” It is an unexpected ethereal take on a digital trend, representing the change in the perception and construct of the art world.

Colour Cues A mood of freedom is captured by this transient palette that’s explorative and pushes boundaries. You will find Misty Purple, Pipe Dream, Gauguin Blue, Tinge of Rose, Dollop and Crystal River.

Material Matters Iridescent lycra lamé, flexible LED screens, gradient metal mesh and epoxy resin.

Wallpaper Leading Lights, Julia collection by Nilaya.

Texture Tussar, Royale Play Taana

QUICK TIP

Pastel shades and a soothing wallpaper, balance the abstract forms and the multiplicity of spaces in this studio apartment (*above*).

A New Wellness Movement

Hope You’re Well is a very subtle theme. “There is a collective kind of awareness on mental health. The whole behavioural and sensorial environment is changing. People are not weary of asking for help. They are becoming far more open and mature,” says Syngle. Seeking help for invisible mental ailments is now seen as normal.

Colour Cues This pensive mid-tone palette represents maturity and vulnerability. The balance of shades in the palette reflects our constant work-in-progress nature and our willingness to ‘feel’ our feelings. You will find Aluminium, Weathered White, Pink Embrace, Sunrise Ray, Sunkissed and Sonnet.

Material Matters Slub cotton, chindi, tactile new materials and riverstone mosaic.

Wallpaper May Day, Replay collection by Nilaya.

Texture Lithos Slate Stone Finishes by Royale Play Materials

QUICK TIP

An indoor courtyard (*right*) allows us to pause, put up our feet and observe the open sky. Watching the play of shadows and sunlight allows us a momentary escape.



MAKING A STATEMENT

Turning colour-blocking into an art that becomes an extension of its inhabitants this hue-heavy home in Mumbai is a lesson in smart design

By PRASHANT CHAUHAN AND ANU CHAUHAN



Photographs by YADNYESH JOSHI



HUE KNEW

The living room (above) with blue and pink walls, red sofa and blue swing; the green bathroom (right); the bright blue kitchen overlooks a yellow wall (left)



The second wave of Covid showed some of us the most 'grey' times we have seen in our entire lifetime, and right after this period the clients approached us to make a self-sustaining, happy and cheerful home which reflected their panache for colours.

This lavish 4BHK apartment houses a small family of three with two dogs, house help and parents visiting on-and-off. The home layout allocates spaces for Living room with balcony, master bedroom, daughter's

bedroom, kitchen, powder room, gym, steam room, and utility room, apart from two full-fledged home offices for his and her personal use.

The living room is a visual treat right from the entrance door with its pop of colours and an experimental colour blocking which uses the walls and floor as the canvas for this art expression. The furniture compliments the visuals with its sharp contrasts in form and colour. The swing forms an integral part of the seating, connecting seamlessly with the dining and bar space within the living room. The



Prashant Chauhan is an architect and creative director while **Anu Chauhan** is an architect and stylist with Mumbai-based multifaceted design firm, ZERO9. www.zero9.in



THE COLOUR CODE

(clockwise from left) The dining room is a burst of colours and patterns; another view of the dining; the master bedroom plays on shades of blue and green; this passage connects various parts of the home; the daughter's bedroom

bar unit on the other hand, contrasts with the colour block pattern and sets its own identity in a bright red oval form.

The master bedroom is a splash of green over the beige tones, with its botanical wallpaper and green hand polished louvered door to the walk-in closet. The master bathroom is simply a green micro-concrete coating over the walls, with a seamless and joint free finish, in contrast to its black and white patterned floor tile.

The daughter's room is all about whimsy with a bunk bed like setting, which gives her extra space to read, play and sleep in the same structure as she climbs up and slides down the bed. The customised wallpaper and wardrobe add to the dreamy vibe of this space. Her bathroom is an extension of similar colours with micro-concrete over the existing bathroom setting.

Her home office is a mini library, with a lounge to read and relax while the custom-made blue terrazzo top work-desk by the window; provides complete flexibility to stand or sit, while working with its lift mechanism. The vibrant indigo blue compliments the wooden flooring as well as the feminine swan lamp.

His home office doubles up as a guest bedroom when required, with a sofa cum bed and movable desk setting that gets tucked into the furniture when not required. This basic grey and brown space is a complete contrast to the otherwise vibrant home; creating a perfect den space for him to cut-off and immerse into his work.

The blue kitchen is in-sync with the living room and its complimenting spaces, which are just as vibrant. While the gym in the contrast is a powerful punch of shocking pink that absolutely cannot be missed; it also facilitates the steam room.

In short, this is a home, as un-grey as its lovely dwellers.



THE MAXIMALIST CORNER

This nook at The House of Things is layered with not just an inspiring palette of colours but also styles and art from different eras

By DOMINIQUE JEAN LAVABRE



1.



2.



3.

TAKE YOUR PICK

1. Carlos Armchair;
2. Chaitanya Face Sculpture;
3. Harmony in Red Console;
4. Corinthian Decor;
5. Miniature Art;
6. Sienna Sofa



4.



5.



6.

cover story Style

Even though each artwork on the wall narrates an entirely different story, the most enthralling part of the setup is the conversation woven together by the yellow, red and blue hues. The design story starts with Harmony in Red Console, showcasing spellbinding artwork by Henri Matisse. The look draws inspiration from the painting's deep hues and bold style. The busy and colourful carpet forms the first layer of the look. This inspiring medley then starts taking shape as the contemporary furniture pieces engender a refined silhouette. A centre table with a diaphanous aesthetic enhances functionality without stealing the spotlight from the hero piece, the cabinet. The vibrant ensemble

is complemented by rich brass accessories and black accents à la sophistication. When you're stuck somewhere, use black. And you will find just the perfect exit. Black here is used as a means of unification, bringing harmony to this eccentric corner.



Born in France, **Dominique Jean Lavabre** escaped corporate life before establishing his eponymous design studio in 2016, ASTANA Dom Jean Lavabre Design Studio in Udaipur. From France to India, one thing that remains common in his design adventures is his ability to give design a historic charm.

GET THE LOOK

Colour, charm and character define this quiet corner in the living room

BUYER'S GUIDE

Harmony in Red console, by The Edit, ₹68,000; Nero Side Table, by The Edit, ₹10,000; Carlos Armchair by The Edit, ₹53,100; Sienna Sofa by The Edit, ₹1.40 lakh; Corinthian Décor by Rare; ₹14,200; Hermit Vases (set of two) by Rare, ₹14,850; Face Sculptures by Rare, ₹10,500 onwards; Paradiso Candle Holders (set of three) by Rare, ₹12,540; Art by Vipul Shah x The House Of Things, ₹56,800; Decanter by Mayur Arts, ₹8,600; Rug by The House of Rugs, ₹3,13,950; All available at The House of Things www.thehouseofthings.com

THE DRAMA OF BLACK AND WHITE

These pieces prove that ebony and ivory can live together in perfect harmony

By RIDHI KALE



ARTFUL DECOR

The print on this table has been designed by artist Emiliano Besana and translated into furniture by Momenti (available at Ottimo). PRICE on request; AT www.ottimo.in

cover story
Products

FOR THAT LUXE LOOK

Marble and ceramic come together in the B&W Diamond Vase from Ochre at Home. Graphic patterns, glossy finishes, and fluted surfaces lend it an exquisite appeal. PRICE on request; AT www.ochreathome.com



CLOTH COUTURE

Pretty dinnerware deserves beautiful table linen. This one from ellementry called Classic Stripes is made from 100 per cent cotton. PRICE ₹1,050 (set of six); AT www.ellementry.com

CHECK MATE

The Chequered Console by I'M, The Centre for Applied Arts combines the raw, organic warmth of wood with black and white acrylic surface. PRICE on request; AT www.imcaa.in



IN GRAPHIC DETAIL

Turn your wall into a conversation starter with the Giant Peonies wallpaper, part of the Naturae collection by Coordonné (available at Nirmals Furnishings). PRICE on request; AT www.nirmals.com





SIDE BY SIDE

Giving new meaning to functional art this ceramic side table is by Bosa (available at Sources Unlimited). **PRICE** on request; **AT** www.sourcesunlimited.co.in



SMELLS GREAT

Neroli scented candle from Rad Living's new range called F.L.Y (First Love Yourself). **PRICE** ₹999; **AT** www.radliving.in



PLATE UP

The Nirvana Cocktail Tray from Serein Decor has been crafted from metal and coated with clear epoxy. **PRICE** ₹2,399; **AT** www.sereindecor.com



STRIPE TEASE

Available in two heights this black and white stripe lamp is from Beyond Designs Home. **PRICE** on request; **AT** www.beyonddesigns.in



TABLE MANNERS

Inspired from the triangular tessellations on the façade of Esplanade, Singapore, the array of triangles forms the base of the Loko collection. The Loko Table Lamp in white and black resin is from Orange Tree Homes. **PRICE** ₹4,799; **AT** www.orangetree.in



SERVE A PURPOSE

The beauty of geometry gets accentuated in the Dédale Rectangular Tray by L'Objet (available at Emery Studio). **PRICE** on request; **AT** emerystudio.in (Instagram)



SIT ON THIS

Looking for a haute seat? Then the Coralia Club Chair from Beyond Designs will not disappoint. **PRICE** on request; **AT** www.beyonddesigns.in



IN THE BOX

Wood and metal storage box by Le Jahaan. **PRICE** ₹2,000 onwards; **AT** [@le.jahaan](http://le.jahaan) (Instagram)



BUILDING BLOCKS

The live-work-play model of an apartment complex proposed to be built outside Delhi; architect Gautam Bhatia (right)



“DESIGN IS JUST A TOOL
TO PLACE THINGS IN
THE RIGHT CONTEXT”

Questioning traditional diktats of design, architect Gautam Bhatia goes beyond the ordinary to make sure that his buildings stay true to their surroundings

By SHELLY ANAND

In his early years of growing up in Washington, where his father was posted as a foreign correspondent, architecture was never in the plan of things for Gautam Bhatia. He went through a range of interests—medicine, anthropology, physics and sculpture—before the pull of buildings drew him in. A degree in fine arts and masters in

architecture, combined together allowed him as much time in studios and galleries as in architects' offices. It also ensured that he would seek the comfort of drawings, and models, bits of clay and wood to reassure himself that a creative process is on.

Though he has done some large-scale projects such as the Devigarh Palace hotel in Udaipur,

a campus for the Indian Council for Child Welfare in Delhi, a school for the blind, and housing for HUDCO among others, most of the work done by him in last over 30 years has been in remote places—on hills, across rivers, high up in the mountains of Himachal Pradesh and Kumaon, or in the Aravalis. Some even on Delhi lakes and Kerala backwaters and forests in Corbett Park, but all smaller complexes done to make

STRUCTURAL ART

A glass structure spa in Almora surrounded by frost-bitten trees and snow (right); Monolith Resort in Bhimtal built on a four-acre steeply terraced site (far right)

peace with local materials and locations. “To me these are of real value because they align with the way I live, and the way I would like others to live,” says Bhatia, who is an architect and sculptor, based out of Delhi.

Winner of several awards for his drawings and buildings, Bhatia has written extensively on architecture as well. It’s the practice of architecture but that leaves him suspended for long periods in art, sociology, culture, politics, and design in a way that allows him an extended speculation about life, much before the realisation of a building.

What does design mean to you? Are design and architecture interrelated?

Design for its own sake often makes you realise how useless architecture is as a professional activity. If a building photographs well, it is a clear indication that it’s a product of design, not architecture. Design is not really related to architecture. It’s merely a tool to place things in the right context, the way a surgeon uses a scalpel. But when architects talk of skin and shadow, transparency versus opacity, materiality and temporality, they are expressing design concerns. The real reasons for architecture—habitation, culture, human behaviour, landscape, and social norms—all get missed. I always wonder why we ask so little of our buildings, why people’s expectations of architecture are so low.

What’s your design style like and how is it different?

There is no style or method or process we follow, but somewhere in the repeated imagery of a situation and place, an idea begins to grow and take shape. Not learnt or acquired, it becomes visible in drawn and written form. You instinctively know about its ‘rightness’ because it comes from your belief in its applicability to a particular situation. Two of our



This & that Architect of the Month



building projects—a children’s retreat in Sohna, Haryana, and a spa in Almora, Uttarakhand—took a great deal of doing and review. They both grew out of their remote landscapes.

From where do you derive your inspiration?

To say that architecture itself is its own source of inspiration may sound trite, but it’s true. Architecture instructs you to probe and invent accordingly. It gives you the licence to tread into people’s lives, culture, and privacy. It is the only profession that follows no formula or rules, but creates them as you go along. Of course, there are inspiring architects and great buildings all around the world. I also admire the work of many younger Indian architects such as Chitra Vishwanath, Anupama Kundoo, Bijoy Ramachandran, Ambrish Arora, and Rahul Mehrotra. These are all people who set unwavering standards and ask difficult questions of their buildings.

What excites you while working on a project?

There are several ideas that run through the mind as you design; architecture allows you the acts of utter stupidity and lyrical pleasure. You can build with rudimentary techniques or extreme technologies. At the same time, you can design for the really rich or the desperately poor. It is a canvas of such extremes that you are always confronting difficult, but unique situations.

What is the future of design and architecture in India?

One of the unfortunate mistakes we make is to associate architecture with building. This is a serious flaw. Architecture is far more liberating and an innovative act when it accommodates function without construction. Building without construction must be seriously followed in a country where the rural earth is parched and the city is overbuilt. The current state of things demands that architecture make political commitments, beyond the comfort of private design. For this reason, the future for architecture must be built on risk and imagination.

Names to Know

The makers of beautiful furniture, these designers are blurring the lines between, form, function and fiction

By RIDHI KALE

ABEER HUSAIN, 27 AND SHANVI RASTOGI, 26

Co-Founders
Objects in Space, Noida
www.oisobjects.com

NIFT, New Delhi graduates, Abeer Husain and Shanvi Rastogi are the force behind Objects in Space. The studio founded in 2018 believes that finding that mid ground is essential to enhance consumer experience.

Material World They use various materials such as marble, wood, terracotta, concrete and metal. "We let the character of material drive the aesthetic and appeal of the collection," says Husain.

Retail Therapy The studio retails side tables, coffee tables, shelves, planters, mirrors, sculptures, lights and accessories.

Latest Range "Our latest collection, Anatomy, is an extension of the human body. Furniture is usually considered a part of the decorative arts but the blurring line between the disciplines of art and design opens furniture to the art category," says Rastogi. Rotatable face lamps, the talking chair, casted ears as wall sculptures, and human feet as bud vases, this collection explores the beauty of the human body as functional art objects.

What's Next They are launching chairs soon along with art, wall sculptures and digital prints. They also plan to work with terrazzo, cane and concrete. Price ₹600 to ₹38,000



Photograph by CHANDRADEEP KUMAR

NANDHA RAVICHANDRAN, 31

Architect and Principal Designer
Agam Design Studio, Auroville
www.agamdesignstudio.com

Founded in 2020, Agam Design Studio by Nandha Ravichandran believes in thematically designed furniture. In Tamil *agam* means internal space in a philosophical and spiritual sense.

Material World “Our recent designs are based on four primary materials—wood, cane, cord and brass,” says Ravichandran.

Retail Therapy They have pieces based on room of the house. So, the living room set has a corner sofa, armchair, console, TV unit, centre table and end tables; while the bedroom set comprises everything

you need for this space. They also customise pieces.

Latest Range The studio has two new collections, Ukiyo and Elysian. Ukiyo is a collection of wooden furniture characterised by solid hollows with elaborate cane weaving. The Elysian seeks to reconceptualise wooden furniture by incorporating shades and patterns inspired by nature.

What’s Next “We are slowly transitioning into designing home decor products, lighting fixtures and redesigning ancient Indian crafts,” shares Ravichandran.
Price ₹6,800 to ₹96,000



KEERTHI TUMMALA, 35

Founder
Sage Living, Hyderabad
www.sageliving.in

“Sage Living—it is not just about a piece of furniture or a product, it is about decorating the lives one truly wants,” says Keerthi Tummala, who started the brand in 2018. Today Tummala has created a niche for the brand.

Material World Priding itself over using traditional craftsmanship, they create pieces with a global outlook; meaning they use just about any material available. “From a traditional hand-woven rattan combined with a modern metal frame to stone, wood, embroidery and brass, all materials are treated with innovative techniques,” adds Tummala.

Retail Therapy The brand primarily retails furniture, lighting and mirrors.

Latest Range The Forged collection employs techniques dating back to 1500 BC using iron.

What’s Next “We want to explore and expand ourselves into various product categories and open stores across India in coming years,” shares Tummala.

Price ₹15,000 to ₹4 lakh



BUY THE WAY
(clockwise from right) Owners Anuradha Jain and Ambereen Gupta at the store; a dining table concept; the powder room has bath products and unique ceiling art; the bedroom

Cobbled streets, a quaint charm and a warehouse meets hipster aesthetic, Delhi's Dhan Mill Compound has been the creative elite's favourite haunt for quite a while now. Tucked away in one of the many alleyways is a new home store that complements its location in more ways than one. Called ISQ, spread over 1,600 sq ft, what it lacks in extra square footage it makes up for in the quantum and quality of wares it offers. Rows of attractive ceramic pieces, furniture, accessories, barware, furnishings, lighting and more are on display here.

The nomenclature of the store (*isq* is the Persian word for love), hints at another best-kept secret—the co-founders Anuradha Jain and Ambereen Gupta's love for bespoke and beautiful interiors. Jain comes with 25 years of experience in interiors, while Gupta has long been a connoisseur of good design. Jain was fed up with having to travel to different places to find the right products for her client's homes and Gupta was looking to do something more than just buy and appreciate

beautiful things. Today they complement one another and offer clients who visit their store a free interior service.

"Let's say you want to buy a stool, we will ask you where do you want to keep it, give you ideas about how to do up the space around it, and share different styling options as well as colour cues," says Jain. Gupta on the other hand will help you narrow down on what you need for your space. The dynamic duo is clear that they do not want their store to turn into a mass production factory. "So, every piece is available in a limited number, and we will keep introducing newer ranges at the store," says Gupta.

Diversity is ISQ's mainstay. Once you enter the store, you will see an eclectic ensemble of craft and art. Cases in point are the hand-crafted stoneware in brilliant azure and subtle teals, the cane and brass mats and baskets, the resin and wood products and multipurpose trolleys. The bed linen collections are soft, cosy and alluring, while the chandeliers are magnificent with fine detailing. Our final verdict: the store's definitely worth a visit.

A Hidden Gem

Small but bustling with ideas and products, this new store in Delhi will make you fall in love with its wares

By RIDHI KALE



Photographs by CHANDRADEEP KUMAR



Boho Meets Chic

Designed as an honest and delightful, yet mismatched visual palette curated to disrupt the coordinated synchrony of elements, this home defines disproportionate harmony

By RAHUL MISTRI



Rahul Mistri is the founder and principal designer of Open Atelier Mumbai, an interior design studio that follows an urban ideology and methodology when designing spaces. www.openateliermumbai.com

Photographs by PRASHANT BHAT



HIGH ON DRAMA

In the living room you will find an organic dynamism through textures

The client brief for Casa Bohemia forms the basis of the design for an organic home that was uncoordinated, grounded in the bohemian style that seems incidental yet aesthetically pleasing and an integral part of the client's persona. Nestled on the 55th floor of a skyscraper in the heart of Mumbai, it is home for a couple and their teenage children. The towering structure in which the four-bedroom apartment is located is clad in glass, a post-modern style of architecture. However, the clients were keen on having a space rooted in the bohemian style.

MATCH MADE IN DESIGN HEAVEN

Conscious of the stark contrast between the two aesthetics of the external facade and the spaces within, a smooth transition is crafted between the lift lobby and the entrance to the apartment that takes shape in the form of the living cum dining space. The linear living room takes on a bohemian look. Opulent and white, the space is a conscious curation of mismatched pieces. Adding warmth to the alabaster tone is rattan. Spatially, the lack of a formal foyer is filled in by the narrow entrance framed by the dining on one side and a statement balloon chair in rattan along with lots of plants on the other. The bar was created by taking square footage from the staff's room in order to create a concave peripheral storage space that acts as a bar, it becomes an endearing background for the circular dining table in wood and the chairs, all of which flaunt a different colour, complete with a chandelier on top.

FACT FILE

Design Team Rahul Mistri, Parth Soni,

Rakesh Sharma, Mahesh Chalke

Site Area 2,000 sq ft

Start Date March 2021 **Completion Date**
December 2021



DRAW A DISTINCTION

The living space is on the other side of the room, set adjacent to large windows, bathing in sunlight being filtered through the macrame sheers. In rattan and wood, the elegant sofa is layered with a white couch and peppered with exquisitely embroidered cushions in neutral hues. The exposed mechanical details of the television unit and library, manifested through oak-finished wooden shelves that are mounted on the black pipe, impart a rustic look to the space.



AND SO TO BED

While the common spaces have a general pattern of a bohemian asynchrony, the bedrooms are personalised to the occupant's liking and colour preferences. The master bedroom is a theatrical display of an earthy red. The kids' bedrooms take experimental forms from their individual likings, artistically incorporating their preferences, while still leaving room for incremental additions for the future. The son's wishlist had the colour blue and pokemon. The daughter's room is all about her love for pink and admiration for the art nouveau style.

The home truly is asynchronous, organic and mismatched, that only adds to its overall aesthetics juts like the clients wished.

Working within the budget constraints that led to integration with the overall design aesthetic as well, the existing Botticino marble flooring has been retained in order to offset the Boho accents that were brought in. The star of the show is the hard-to-miss wall mural. With a monochromatic palette, the flowers and butterfly laden piece of art adds charisma and character to the space. Overlapping rugs, sourced from Kerala add splashes of colour to the flooring and augment the space with a regional appeal. The macrame sheers that filter the sunlight, sit on an antique wooden finish rod that permeates a vintage aesthetic.

MAKE SPACE

In the kids bedroom an illustrated wall adds personality (above); the study brings the outdoors in (right); the dining room is all about handcrafted details (far right)



A PARADIGM SHIFT

This gorgeous home in Chennai is sensitive not only to the climate of the city, but also the homeowner's spiritual, religious and practical requirements

By SANDEEP KHOSLA AND AMARESH ANAND

Nagalingam Veedu in Tamil translates to the house with the Nagalingam tree. The sacred tree was planted by our clients' family on this site in the late 1990's in their previous home, and the fragrant flowers resembling the hood of a snake have been offered in prayers by their family to Lord Shiv ever since. While demolishing the old house and building anew, it was an important aspect of our clients' brief to retain the tree in a prominent position in the garden.

Respecting their religious sentiments, the footprint of the house was intentionally built in a C-shape around the north-east garden where the tree stood. We located the puja room and tulsi plant in the same auspicious direction to facilitate ease in their daily rituals.

The other aspect of client brief that resonated with us was the homeowner's penchant for keeping pet fish. What started off as discussions around having an aquarium integrated into the living spaces, evolved into a gentle design response of having a skylit fishpond with a sculptural Ficus Bonsai sitting atop it.

The spatial layout of the house gives importance on both levels to the private north-east garden and there is a transparency to it from both levels. The discreet entrance to the south-west makes way into a dramatic double height

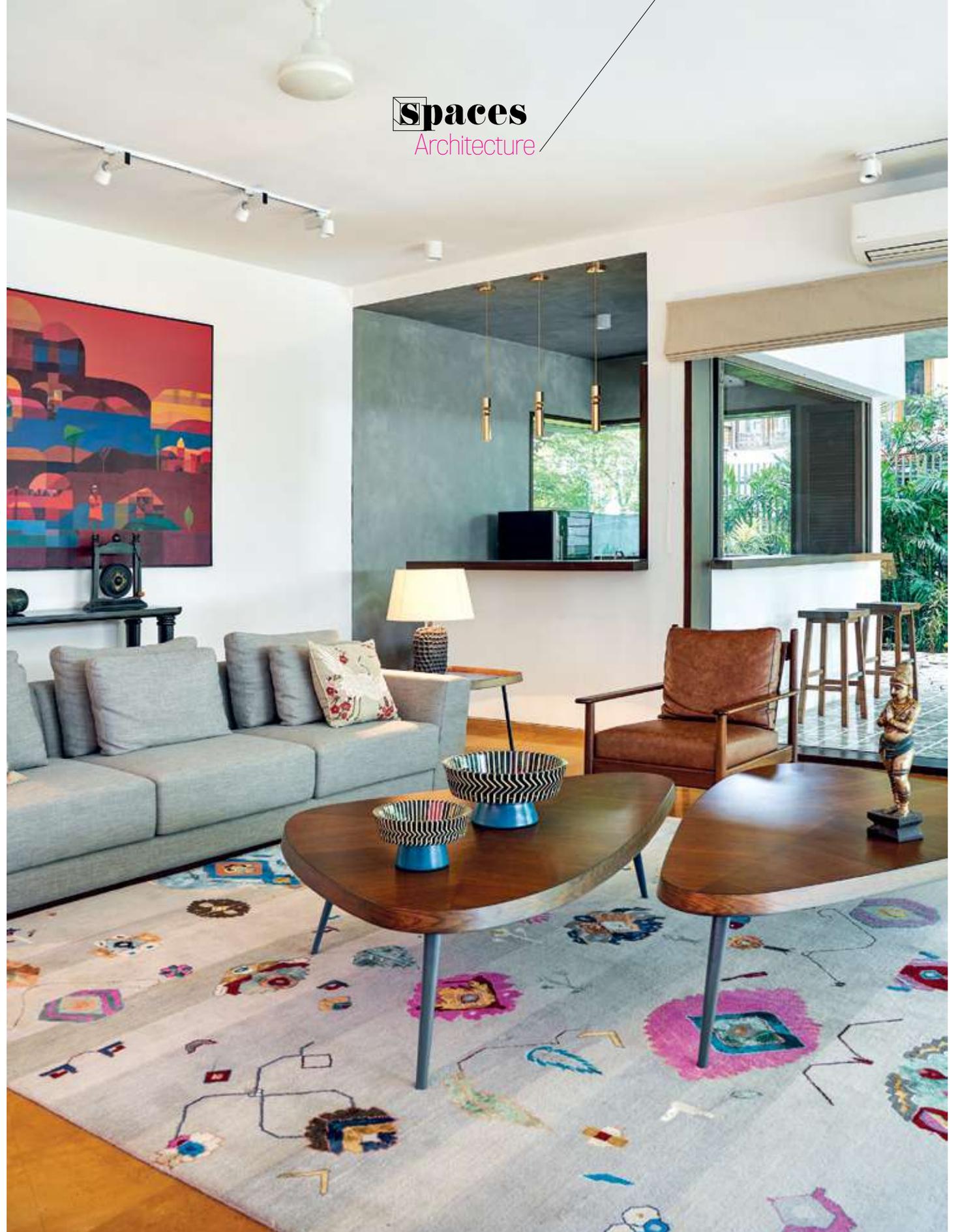


Photographs by SHAMANTH PATIL J

REFINED DESIGN

The passage that leads to the water feature (below); this living room with a bar overlooks the greens outside (right)

spaces
Architecture



entrance foyer. The foyer has a cinematic quality to it with walls in distressed cast concrete and a floor in a seamless white marble. A long vista leading south to north culminates in a square cutout framing the water feature with its striking red backdrop. Two folded paper artworks depicting the 'circle of life' on the double height concrete wall by self-taught Chennai artist Dhasan complete the visual composition.

The white marble flooring in the foyer leads to a deep yellow Jaisalmer sandstone in the formal living and bar. Vibrant elements such as a triptych painting by Madhukar Maithani, a custom artisan hand knotted carpet by Jaipur Rugs, lacquered fruit bowls by Scarlet Splendour and hive table lamps from Iqrup & Ritz find home in the warmth of this space. A window visually connects the living area back to the bonsai and skylit water feature.

The ground floor foyer, with living and



LIVE IN LUXE

Another view of the living room with the custom hand knotted carpet by Jaipur Rugs (above); the outdoors (left); the water feature with a red backdrop (top right); another living space (below right)

Sandeep Khosla and Amaresh Anand are principal architects with Bangalore-based, architecture and interior design firm Khosla Associates. www.khoslaassociates.com

dining at either ends open via large sliding doors to a linear verandah that faces the garden. The geometric 'dashdashdot' collection of terrazzo tiles by Tania and Sandeep Khosla for Bharat Floorings accentuates the lines of the architecture.

The first floor has bedrooms for the family, and the master bedroom and family area/gym open out into large terraces that interact with the North-east Garden and the higher branches of the Nagalingam Tree.

Nagalingam Veedu responds to the cultural and religious needs of its owners while remaining climate sensitive to Chennai's extreme monsoons and summers. The north garden provides respite, and the extent of glazing on this side is protected by the large timber clad overhang of the angular roof. The morning light is soft and the space is additionally shaded by the omnipresent tree, keeping it relatively cool.

FACT FILE

Location Chennai
Architecture and Interior Design Khosla Associates
Design Team Sandeep Khosla, Amaresh Anand, Baalakrishnan A, Anusha Y.S, Nisarg Shah.
Structural Engineer S & S Associates





In Fine Detail

A marriage of art, craft, skill and colour, the new Sisis flagship store in the Capital offers magical mosaics

By RIDHI KALE

Did you know that the smaller the mosaic the more skill it requires to piece it together? In fact, to give any mosaic creation unique finishes, special hues and form needs a trained hand and eye. Step into the 4,500 sq ft Sisis flagship in Delhi by Tessera India and we guarantee this is mosaic like you haven't seen before. Take the Salon Bar "Punk Revolution" by Miriam Alía for Sisis (*right*) for instance. Alía is an eclectic Spanish designer with a transgressive style in which colour and light predominate. She has made masterful use of mosaic, in different shapes and materials, and Vetrite to create a room full of energy.

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