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A round Murano glass chandelier from Galerie Glustin, Paris anchors the entry passage, complementing the red hues of Pandit Khairnar's artwork from ArtBela. An acrylic bench from Yasanche sits against a fluted curved wall adorned with antique plates from Jain Handicrafts



# STEP INSIDE A THEATRICAL AGE

*What would a Parisian respond to an Indian palette? Vaishali Kamdar and Komal Sanghavi Vasa come together to design this answer at a South Mumbai residence*

TEXT BY PRATISHTHA RANA PHOTOGRAPHY BY SULEIMAN MERCHANT

Is this in Provence, South France? Have I teleported back to the beautiful origins of Art Deco or is this somewhere between the Regency-era Europe and the Mediterranean terrains? These thoughts without abandon kept my gaze affixed at the entryway as I stood inside this home in South Mumbai that unravelled alive with a multitude of expressions at the very onset. Think an enigmatic red artwork gently brushed with daylight; the disciplined linearity of black and white striped flooring, and the curved boundaries of soft-white walls meeting an ochre-toned dome on the oval ceiling above. For me, so much to see. For the home, so much to tell! A short expedition up on the high-rise's floors, the residence for a family of four stands emblematic of urban Indian homes going through a roaring renaissance – a decisive, almost inherent rejection of common, templatised Indian dwellings, fronted by Vaishali Kamdar of her eponymous firm and Komal Sanghavi Vasa of Gesamt Design, for whom this home is their fourth such collaboration. And fourth such triumph together to create something extraordinary. The 3,000 sq ft abode sheds the skin of overused checklists and parading of repetitive aesthetics. Instead, it subscribes itself to methodical planning, finding solutions that respond to utility as well as artistry, and regular conversations with the homeowners, drawing from their spiritual beliefs and cultural roots. "The family was keen on using classical overtones and detailing," reveal Vaishali and Komal, who balance their individualistic yet unified ways of design experiments with grace. Wrapped in layered aesthetics, the focus is on jewel tones, exquisite materials and visual patterns of interest that declare the homeowners' love for contemporary-classical interiors and collecting rare art and antiquities. "Imagine being a collector of Indian art in Paris. Let's design the house through that lens. What would a Parisian respond to out of an Indian palette – this was the narrative that shaped the project," says Vaishali.

Originally a four-bedroom layout, they rearranged it to a three-bedroom space with a generous alcove for a mandir, a small study, a dining room with two entryways, walk-in wardrobes, a powder bathroom and an expansive kitchen outfitted with an island. Look up when in the dining room, the ceiling cloaked in green matte velvet surprises you – like a frame borrowed from the theatrical, regal age of India. >>

The foyer sets the tone with Pandit Khairnar's artwork from ArtBela. A curved sofa and armchair from Demuro Das lend an understated poise to the living area, outlined with a Rajendra Dhawan artwork behind that gazes at the cast aluminium and brass coffee tables from Ravi Vazirani Design Studio. They are complemented by a floor lamp from Beyond Designs and a plaster pendant light found at a flea market

FACING PAGE The living area dotted with a vintage bar cabinet from Mahendra Doshi is framed with Shruti Mahajan's artworks from Shrine Empire Gallery





An intriguing artwork by Kaimurai drapes the wall. The agate coffee table by Demuro Das is crowned with artefacts from Atelier Ashiesh Shah, Marina Home UAE and 101 Copenhagen, while a Jaipur Rugs carpet adds a lingering depth to the setting. Sunlight caresses Beyond Designs' table lamp during the day, filtering across to the Mahendra Doshi accent chair that emanates timeless beauty



FROM TOP The impeccable kitchen is fit with a central island, embellished with a ginger jar from Mahendra Doshi among other accessories. A cast aluminium accent table by Ravi Vazirani Design Studio sits atop a Jaipur Rugs carpet; A pair of Taherally's chandeliers glow in the dining room with a carpet by Jaipur Rugs inviting within  
FACING PAGE A peek into the dining area from the living room unveils dining chairs by Demuro Das, draped in The Pure Concept Home upholstery. The walls are layered in textured wallpaper by Phillip Jeffries, fronted by a Mahendra Doshi ginger jar and two wooden sculptures by HB Studio. The ceiling gazes down wrapped in a velvet fabric from Dialogues by Nirmals



"Imagine being a collector of Indian art in Paris. Let's design the house through that lens. What would a Parisian respond to out of an Indian palette — this was the narrative that shaped the project"



FROM TOP A material-laden sanctuary, the son's bathroom exhibits Verdilio stone applications from A-Class Marble, teamed up with Gessi fittings from FCML, accent tables by Mahendra Doshi and mirror lights by Artlite; The Demuro Das bed atop a Jaipur Rugs carpet is layered with bed linen from Bonnie & Saks alongside Tolomeo lamp by Artemide and an artwork by Rumiit Donga on the side table FACING PAGE Lending a warm rhythm to the son's room is lighting by FLOS and FCML's rich oak natural Stockholm wooden flooring ornamented with a green-tinted resin accent table from Ravi Vazirani Design Studio placed close to artworks by Marina Home UAE





**FROM TOP** A white on white canvas is stamped with artworks by Vanshika Rathi from ArtBela; Sleek and stylish, a FLOS pendant light frames the bedside table and bed by Demuro Das with bed linen by Bonnie & Saks **FACING PAGE** In the sea of animated stripes, the daughter's dresser is punctuated with a cast aluminium accent table by Ravi Vazirani Design Studio, a dressing chair by Yasanche, a vintage suitcase by Mahendra Doshi and fabric from The Pure Concept Home



"This was actually inspired by Beyond Designs. I'd seen a red velvet ceiling done by Sachin Gupta somewhere and it stayed with me. Though of course, we brought our own interpretation to it," tells Vaishali. Moments of personalisation recur at every turn here. "For instance, the generously proportioned kitchen with a central island is custom designed and detailed from scratch, with an olive green cabinetry straight from the Provencal landscape, oatmeal-toned countertops, herringbone tiles and a brass accent backsplash. The kitchen is an extension of the design language of the home," expresses Komal. Equally significant to the overall canvas are the clever storage areas. The goal for these elements is to remain discreet—only noticeable when one intentionally opens them. "We incorporated hidden storage wherever possible. Like the curved partition, mirrored cabinets, the TV projector that disappears, a disguised bar to blend effortlessly with the aesthetics of the home," divulges Komal.

With space planning and Vastu at the core, one sees eclectic materiality perform in this home, from semi-precious stones like agate to hemp wallpaper, velvet, boucle, wood, brass and pyrite. Beyond the design decisions, intuition played its part in making art a consequential identity of the home. Especially, the meditative artwork dubbed Naadi (A2) by Indian artist Kaimurai that drapes the living room wall like a focal point of curiosity. "We tried this artwork in several spaces. But when we put it here, it just felt like the jigsaw was complete," says Vaishali. While the spaces are designed with an artistic savoir-faire yet embedded in their individualistic stories, the designers observe that, "Not all art necessarily demands attention. Often, its quiet presence is enough. Unassuming and subtle, like a thoughtfully placed chair or a shadow in the room, an integral part of the whole." And lest we forget, it is often expressions of quietude that make a home worth the homecoming. ♦