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The Ideal Home and Garden

The Ideal Home and Garden, May 2010 Vol 4 Issue 7 Rs.100

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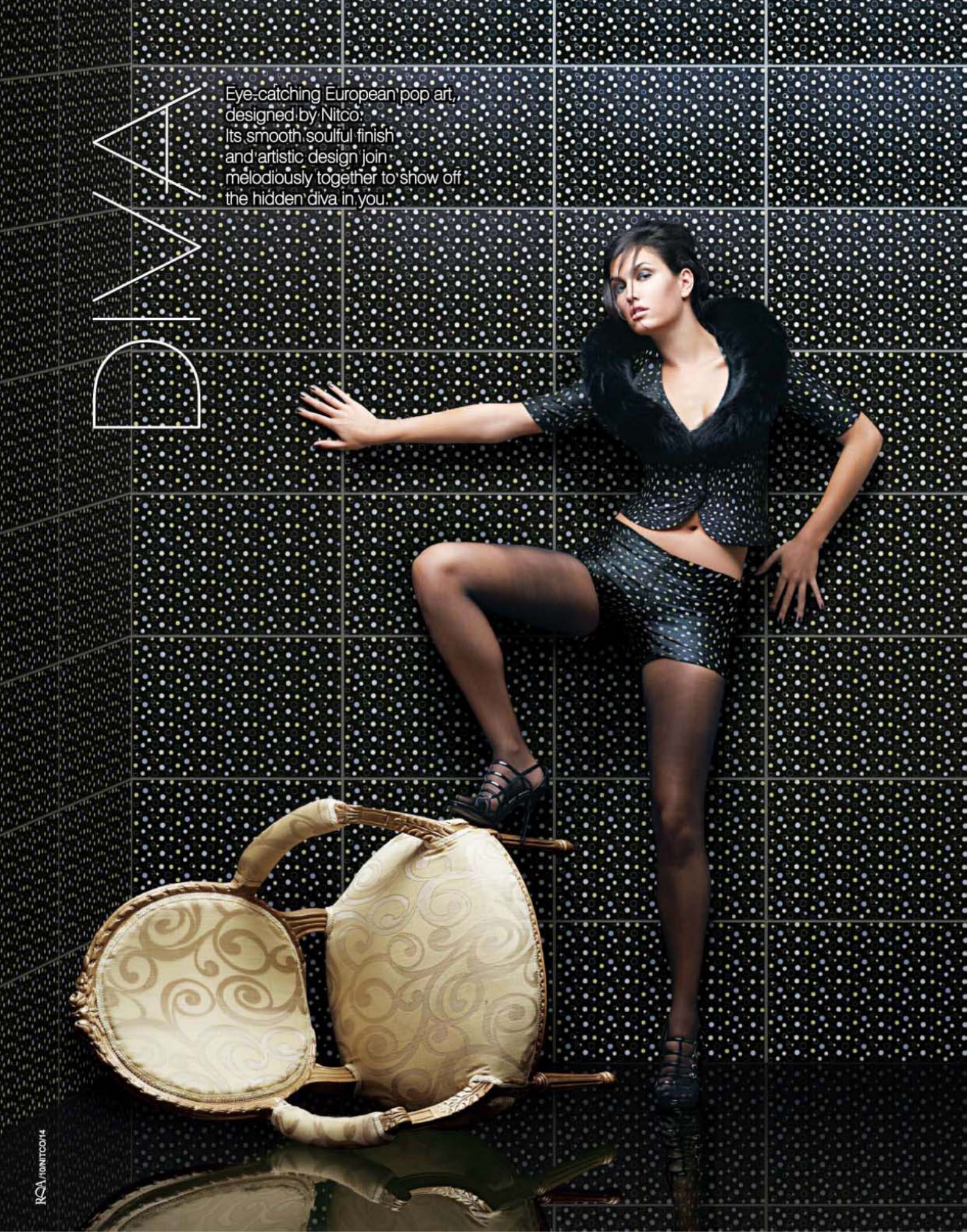
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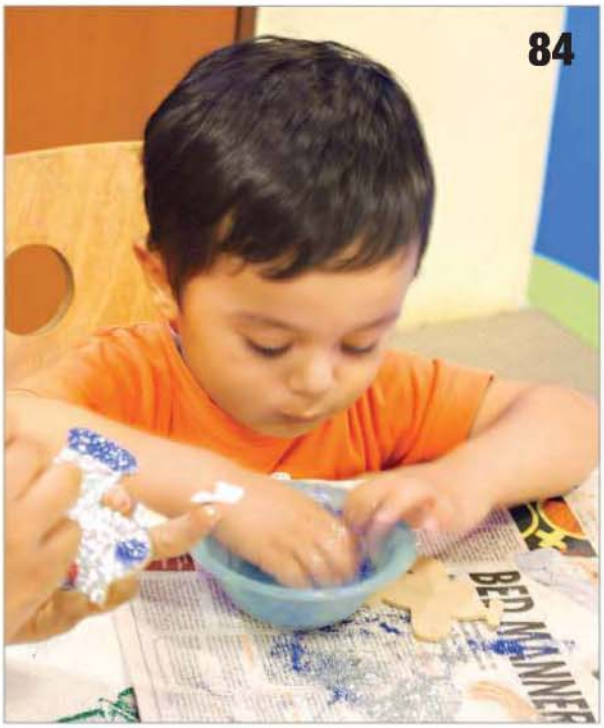
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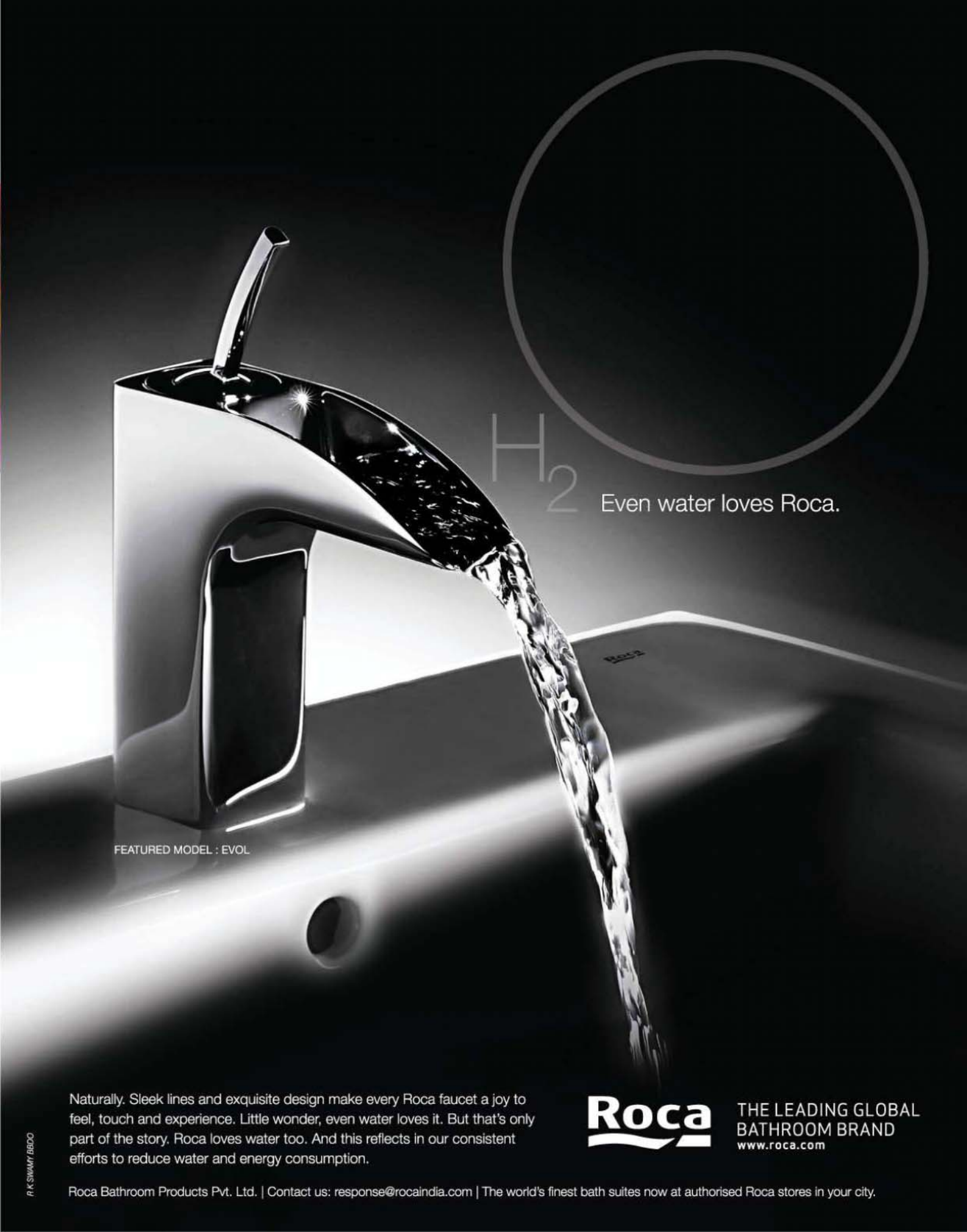
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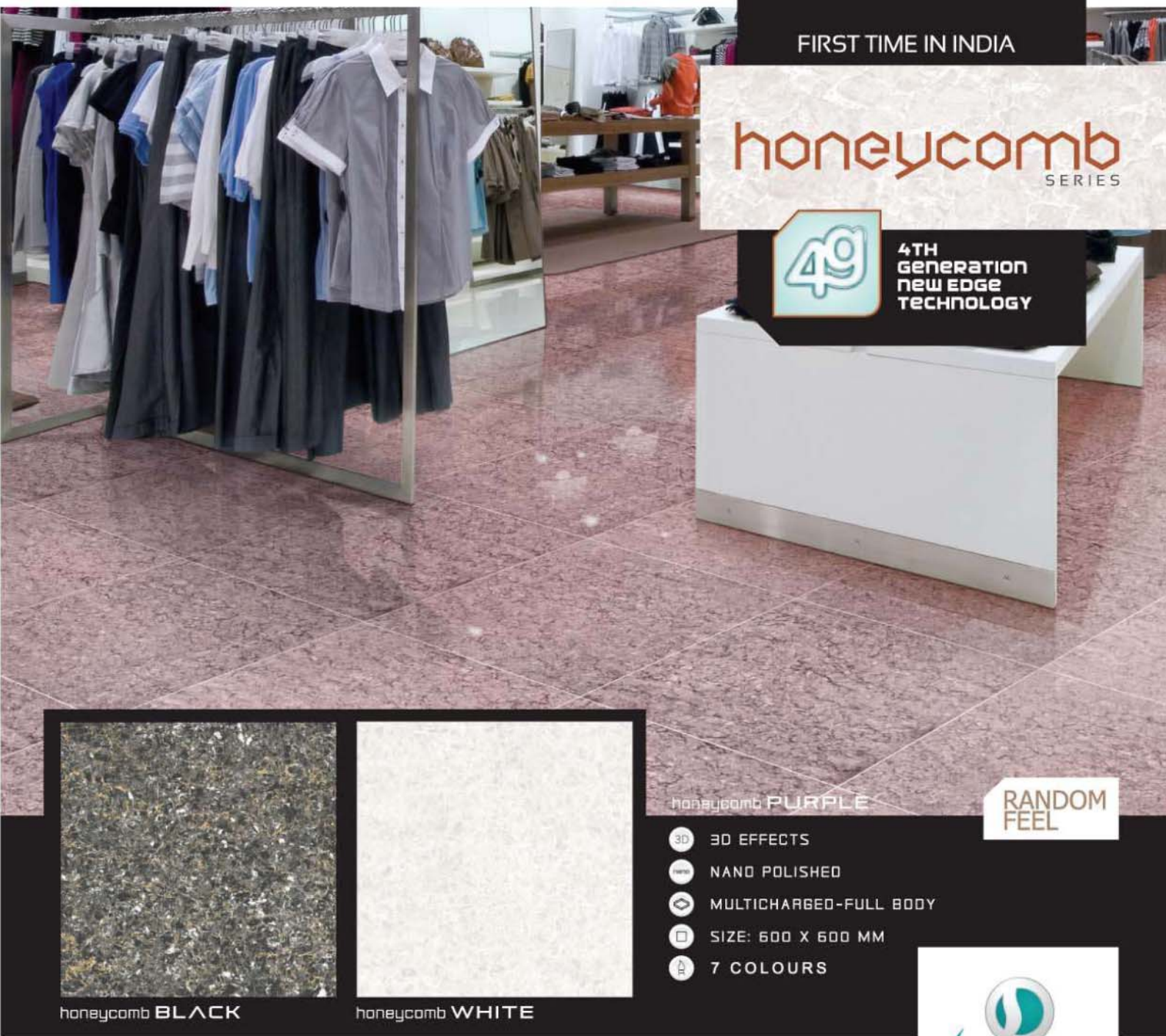
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the homecoming

When I was younger, I always wondered how people could spend their days – especially their weekends – cooped up in their homes. And feel happy about it – this I inferred from my mother's animated conversations with her sister during those days. Home was a place where my parents always hung around. And where I wound up at the end of my eventful day; to sleep, shower and, when my mother absolutely insisted, to eat.

That was almost 10 years ago. Now, once I'm home, try making me leave!

I revel in the fact that I'm home. There's a noticeable lightness in my step when I walk out of the elevator towards my "haven". And I could happily stay there for days on end without feeling the need to venture out again. The strangest thing about this change of stance is that I'm so not afraid to talk about it. Debate it even, with anyone who doesn't agree with me! I've had nearly-hour-long discussions with my mother about it, not really realising what I was doing, until my very astute five-year-old niece pointed it out to me one day. Ever since, I make it a point to head out, with my son in tow, whenever I can. Weekend outings are a must, as she put it. We are regulars at the neighbourhood park every Friday and Saturday, and my 18-month old is also a member of the Little Storyteller's Sunday Club!

Having said all of that, I do realise that there's only so much you can do on weekends. What, then, about the vacations? Most of us would readily haul our brat packs off for a cooling-off Summer break someplace "fun" and away from home. But what if you don't, or, for some reason, are unable to? We all go through those days, don't we, when we just cannot take time out. What happens then? How do you make the children understand and even condone your need to carry on working while they're cooling their restless little heels at home? We've got a few ideas for you...they may not be sure-shot winners, but they'll pass and they're definitely worth a shot! Turn to Summer Camp at Home for the complete lowdown on what we have in mind.

Now, for those of you who don't have children on holiday, but do have time out and yet don't want to go anywhere. This could be a good time to look inward and sort things out. No, we're not getting into psycho-babble, we mean get your home in order since you have the time. Storage is high on our list of things to sort out. In fact, it's a must-do!

We do have a lot packed into this issue because we happen to understand the need for both, good space and good time. Take what you like and leave what you don't – we'll take care of it for you.

Until the next issue – and the school re-openings – happy holidays!

Ronitaa

RONITAA D.



Photograph: Anuj Parti

house warming...



OUR READERS WRITE IN

Good Times

Hi **IHG.** I've been following your magazine for years now and I must say the articles just keep getting better with time. I personally enjoyed the Home Away From Home piece so much, it has made me plan my next vacation to Thailand. I also enjoyed the cupcake article as Butterfly is one of my new favourite stores in Bandra and my kids just love the cupcakes there. It's great to see **IHG** team up with such enterprising brands and I hope to see more such collaborations in the future.

– Premchand Acharya, Mumbai

Handy Accessories

IHG always selects topics close to the heart of the readers. In April issue, I loved the article on 'Small Appliances' from 'Trouble Shooting'. Indeed the small appliances are the workhorse of our kitchen. At times we do take them for granted. I would like to see more of – 'Planning a 1 BHK Home' series by architect Priti Shirude. All the information from carpentry, painting, waterproofing, fittings was very informative and it was interesting to follow their story as they worked their way around building their home. Kudos on such a great feature!

– Rachana Upadhaya, Ujjain

Designer Detail

The profile section of IHG is soaring greater heights. In the April issue, 'House of Raro' and 'Studio 53' were very well presented. Both the stores have their own individual charm and beauty. I personally have visited Studio 53 during my last trip to Goa so it was a real treat to see it in the magazine! Namrata Shroff's ideas about trendy furniture designs made for an interesting read. I also loved the All About column, it definitely shed some light on the humble grain we so often consume.

– Rituparno Mukherjee, Kolkatta

Sweet Tooth

Every festival is a time to indulge and enjoy. Easter just went by. But the memories of Easter cakes, bunnies and Easter eggs still remain fresh in our minds. 'Colours of Easter' in 'Good Living' just added to the festivities. Shaana Gwyne and Sarah Jane just added to the fun by icing cupcakes and making cookies. The different decorating ideas were a real treat. The visuals as usual eye popping.

– Melinda Gwyneth, Mumbai

Garden Mania

Hi. I'm an avid gardening addict. My friends really call me the green thumb of the group. If I'm not tending to my plants, I'm reading about them and hence love the 'Garden' section of the magazine. It's very nice to see gardens from around the country to get inspiration on how one can improve their own garden. I would like to see more of international gardens if possible as this would be a real insight into how people abroad treat their flora. I also love the Details and Decorating section of the magazine. My wife and I are always getting fresh ideas from there to incorporate into our home.

– Ashwin Gundecha, Baroda

Project Peek

I'm a reader of **IHG** and am soon planning to shift to Mumbai for work. I love the fact that you cover up and coming residential projects in the magazine. I personally have gained alot from these articles as they really have shed some light on the real estate scenario for an ignorant outsider like me. Keep it up!

– Anshu Kamte, Ratnagiri

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Coimbatore: SRM AGENCY Green shop, KG Bhavan,15/652, M.T.P. road, Near Gujarati Samaj, **Coimbatore - 641002** Mob. No. 9500210555 Tel: +91-422-3263268, 4370929 Fax: +91-422-4360009 E-mail: hacker_srm@yahoo.co.in

Kochi: GOURMET KITCHENS Noel House, Ground floor Thrikkakara, P.O, **Kochi – 682021** Mob. No: 9895058285 Tel no: +91-484-4042571 Fax: +91-484-4042579 E-mail: hacker.kitchens@gmail.com

Website: www.haecker-kuechen.com



SMART CASUAL

To beat the heat this Summer, keep the indoors cool, minimal and very smart. If you're stuck for inspiration, like we were, drop in at Shahnaz Mahimtura's Lista City for a spritzy refresher course on clean, contemporary styling. What we loved most about the store was its aesthetics of space. It had enough design to make us feel special and yet there was ample space to soak it all in. Subtle accents brought out the distinctive styling and make the design elements stand out. Definitely something to write home about, wouldn't you say?



Accessorise without crowding. Minimal use of accents will highlight the space and bring out its essence more than clutter.



Lista City,
Akruti Sky Park Building,
Level B-2,
Opp. Gamadia Road,
Mumbai 400026.
Tel: (022) 23532071/
23532072

"We are bringing down the best of Italy to India," says Shahnaz of the brands her store houses. There are wallpapers from Trish, upholstered furniture from Arketipo and Besana, lovely glass products from Fiam and breathtaking furnishings from Santas Home (Jaspal and Sons, Thailand).



At the Helm of her Ship!

Lista City is Shahnaz Mahimtura's second offering in the world of luxury design after her first venture L'Vista, Mumbai, which was one of the city's first lifestyle stores (when it opened eight years ago).



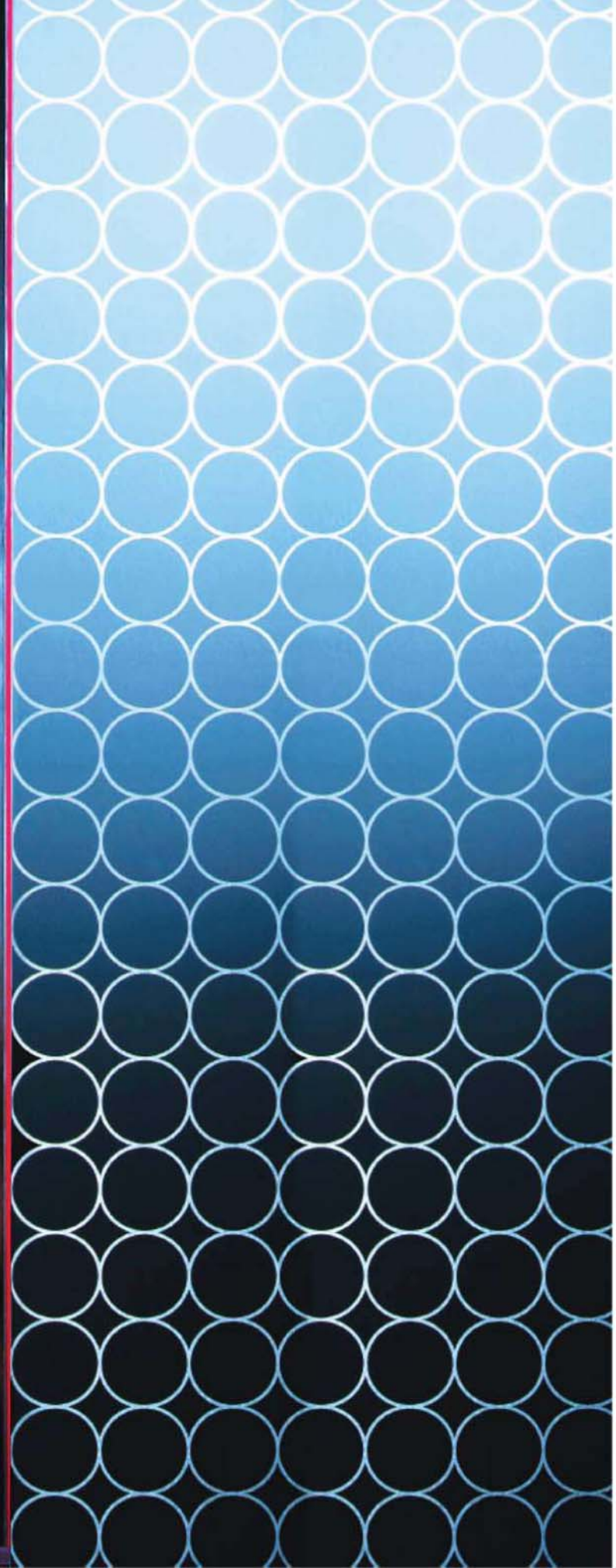
Photographs: Pratul Joshi

Textured Delight

We love the wallpapered effect of a wall! And when a brand like Marshalls presents a range of 3,000 plus designs and shades of wallpaper with a variety of textures such as jute, bamboo, silk, cane, suede, metallic and velvet we want to turn with glee! What's more, they also house some of the world's most famous wallpaper brands. The ranges starts from Rs.15 and goes up to to Rs. 1,500 per sq ft.

Take a look at the brilliant collection at: Marshall House, Behind Phoenix Mill, Worli, Mumbai 400018. Tel: (022) 40702222.







Wall of Fame

Another one for wall papers, Zara Furnishings has recently launched an assortment of brilliant wallpapers in five different collections – Manhattan, Wild, Atlanta, Urban and Damask. What we love about them is that they come in beautifully designed patterns in a variety of colours and textures. So there's actually something for every sensibility. The price ranges from Rs. 80 per sqft and goes up to Rs.150 per sqft, and the cost is inclusive of taxes and fixing charges.

Dress your walls with the papers at: Zara, 110 Commercial Street, Opposite Westside, Bangalore 560001. Tel: (080) 25595995





On the Edge

What with wallpapers and paint finishes looking the way they are, it's no wonder the tile industry is pulling up their socks! Somany Ceramics recently introduced a new series of tiles under the label Beveledge. With their fine, textured surfaces and vivid colours the range is a great way to give your floors and walls a fresh makeover. The series predominantly has natural marble designs, created specially through Roto colour technology. The three dimensional effect is simply stunning.

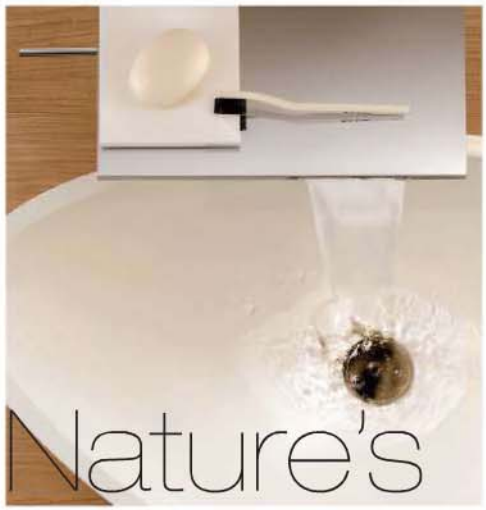
To view the collection visit the showroom: Somany Ceramics Limited, 27-E, Laxmi Industrial Estate, Andheri West, Mumbai 400053. Tel: (022) 26344314

Turn **Tables**

Looking for centre or side tables? You may just find what you're looking for at the Great Eastern Home. Their new collection represents a contemporary lifestyle in a cosmopolitan setting. Made from Burma teak and rose wood, they promise the tables are durable, sturdy and aesthetically pleasing.

Discover some trendy tables at:The New Great Eastern Spg. & Wvg. Company Limited, 25-29, Dr. Ambedkar Road, Between Voltas House and Rani Baug, Byculla, Mumbai 400027. Tel: (022) 22910764





Nature's **Inspiration**

We enjoy new things happening around us and Axor, the designer brand from Hansgrohe AG is upto great things we hear. They're presenting a marriage of thought and ideas in their collection Axor Massaud featuring creations by French designer, Jean-Marie Massaud. Through the fascinating bathroom collection, Massaud retraces the human path back to its humble beginnings. He uses emotions and the association with nature to integrate them into his spatial concepts. Sinks, bidets, bathtubs, showers, thermostats, washbasins...are all turned into ceremonial sculptures from mere functional objects.

To see more of this grand collection log on to www.axor-design.com

Some more new things...Havells India Limited has opened its first display and learning center in New Delhi. Congratulations are in order! The company aims to accelerate its growth and further consumer knowledge about their products with this initiative. And by the end of the year, they plan to open 10 such stores in the country.

For further information: Havells India Limited, QRG Towers, 2D, Sector 126, Express Way, Noida 201304. Tel: (0120) 4771000





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NEWS...



Heartiest congratulations to the Hafele India team for moving on to bigger and better things! This time around, it's a new and bigger office located at Kanjurmarg Mumbai. In a way, the move represents another major commitment by Hafele to the Indian market. And we hear they have another major project in the pipeline – a state-of-the-art Design Center, set to open its doors by July. Way to go guys, we're with you all the way!

Fiberboard **Saga**



It's obviously an auspicious time of the year! Greenply is also set to unveil its latest MDF unit in Rudrapur with 600cbm per day capacity. It is said to be able to manufacture the entire range of 2.5 mm-35mm thick MDF boards and will have the largest production capacity and product range in the country! In case you didn't know, MDF is used to manufacture furniture, kitchen cabinets, door parts, mouldings, millwork and laminate flooring and is turning out to be the next big thing in the Indian furniture industry!

Visit the Greenply showroom to learn more: Greenply Industries Limited, 1501-1505, 15th Floor, Naraina Manzil, 23 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi 110001. Tel: (011) 42791300



Kitchen **Mate**

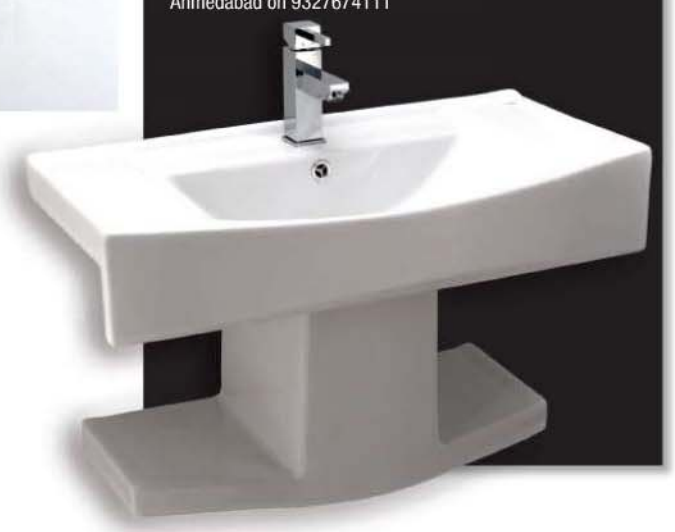
One of the top contenders in the Indian furniture market - IKian, recently launched its stunning new brand of exquisite kitchens and wardrobes - KIWA. Presenting a contemporary range in a variety of finishes, the collection has something for everyone.

Step into a glossier Kiwa kitchen at: No3, Survey no.140, Opposite Prestige, Shanthi Niketan Apartments, Whitefields, Bangalore 560048. Tel: (080) 28416556

All in One

Crafty designs always catch our attention. And Cera Sanitaryware has launched a pioneer design in basins - a unique wash basin with a built-in platform and matching pedestal with an integrated ceramic shelf, completely eliminating the need for a separate counter! Since it is a wall hung wash basin, the floor is left untouched. Cheryl, as it is called, is available in two sizes: 800 mm length and 600 mm length and is priced at Rs. 8,800 and Rs. 8,200 respectively.

For more information contact P K Shashidharan, General Manager (Marketing), Cera Sanitaryware Limited, Ahmedabad on 9327674111





Now in India!

Ask any rickshaw operator in Bangalore or taxi driver in Kolkata what they associate with Belgium, and their immediate answer will be 'crystal'. Belgian crystal has always been much prized in our country. And we have brands like Val Saint Lambert entering our markets hoping to further reinforce that faith. Interestingly, of the 38 leading countries where Val Saint Lambert sells its products, the Indian subcontinent is ranked sixth. Even today - almost 200 years since the first Val Saint Lambert furnace was fired in Seraing - the brand remains true to its authenticity. So far, VSL has been synonymous throughout the world with top quality, craftsmanship, passion and art. What's great is that you can now look forward to having their renowned "double coloured and cut" crystal grace your homes.

"Our aim is to breathe new life into the rich past of Val Saint Lambert in India. Now that the economy is growing so fast in India, it represents an important market for our luxury crystal products.We are seeking to create a dynamic market in India for our unique crystal products that are still blown by mouth and polished by hand." :: Justin Onclin, Owner, Val Saint Lambert



Rocking Agates

Agates are perhaps one of the most versatile stones available to us today. They comprise of unique patterns that can be used to complement diverse decorating purposes. Stone Source Premiere is proud to present the red and blue Agate Collection, specially created to brighten your living spaces. And did you know, the stones are also known to aid in centering and stabilising physical energy!

To see some of these brilliant stones visit: Stone Source, Shop No 8, Vasan Udyog Bhavan, Opposite High Street Phoenix, Mumbai 400013. Tel (022) 24926949

Techno on the Go

Philips Electronics India Limited has only just unveiled a new and inspired range of products designed to meet the needs of their Indian consumers. The product portfolio includes: Colourful and trendy notebook accessories, a bright range of GoGear MP3 and MP4 players and the new high-end home theatre range.

For more details log on to www.india.philips.com



Oceans of Heaven



The most comforting perk at the end of a long day is a hot soak in the tub. And with massage tubs, relaxation gets a new meaning! Check out the babies launched by Hindware for some more excitement. The brand presents Oceanic SPA, a spacious massage jet system and heating system scientifically designed to enhance the bathing experience.

For more details log on to www.hindwarehomes.com

Soft Comfort

There's nothing like fine, white linen for the bedroom. Fine Linen Company has recently launched its Eternal Whites signature collection...and we're totally looking forward to it! This exclusive collection is available only by private sale and can be customised according to specifications.

For details contact:Fine Linnen Company, 1/F Kakad House, "B" Wing, 10 Barrack Road, Opposite Bombay Hospital, Mumbai 400020. Tel: (022) 6633 3849



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Chair Supply

Le Sutra, the recently launched art hotel in Mumbai is running an interesting exhibition featuring 36 chairs created by 29 artists and designers from all over the world. The collection has been curated by Radha Bajaj with the help of Shraddha Purnaye and Juhie Gupta.

Showcasing some stunning creations the exhibition is an attempt to break the mould when it comes to the humble ol'chair. With pieces made out of a plethora of materials like wood, steel, fiber glass, aluminium and even gold foil, the exhibition strings together emotional, philosophical and mystical influences brought to form in the chairs' physical designs.

The exhibition is on till May 12 so go down and experience a bit of art with some funky chairs at the Gallery, Le Sutra.

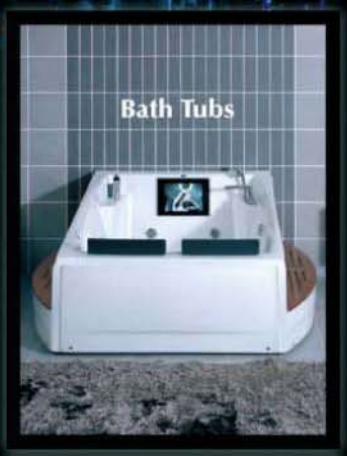
While some of these pieces maybe a tad eccentric for your living room, the ideas behind each one and the actual design itself make for excellent pieces of art.

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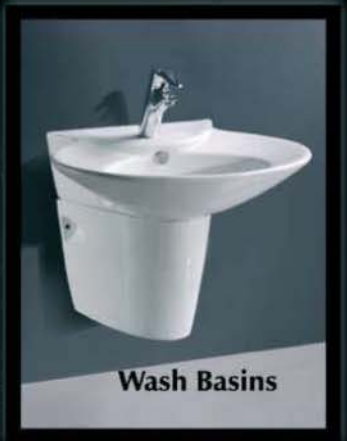


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Case Logic!

Bottle holders never came this colourful



There are few things we can't wax eloquent on. And they're usually those rare numbers that speak for themselves. These delightful bottle holders are one of them. We're totally crazy about this new launch from Mother Earth, because it's not only non-toxic and eco-friendly, but it's also happy-coloured and nothing like what we've seen before! What else can we say besides urging you to head to the nearest Mother Earth outlet to check them out for yourself. Go!

For details see Store Map










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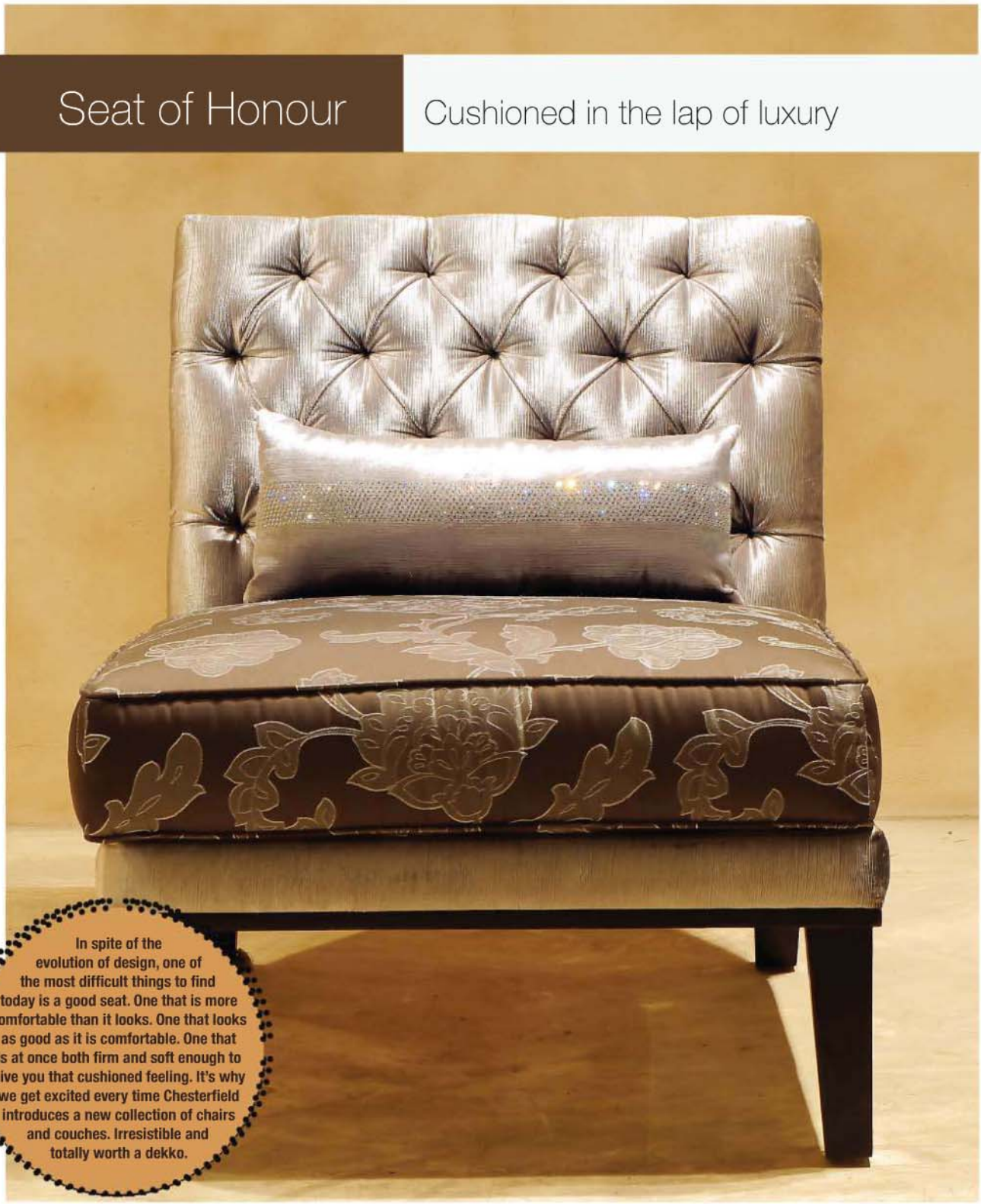
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For details see Store Map



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We have a soft spot for everything "children", whether it's the furniture or the linen, or simply the way it is packed. Take these cutesy hand and face towels for instance. We spotted them at Vividha, and it wasn't so much their colours or the towels themselves that caught our eye. It was the way they were packed and presented. Delightful, isn't it? It's the kind of novelty we see on a shelf and can't not buy. And for what it costs, it's a

For details see Store Map



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Conceptually Speaking

After dressing homes the world over, BoConcept makes a bold entry into the country

Images I Mahesh Reddy

From Shanghai to Stockholm, Washington to Wiesbaden, Malta to Munich, Chelsea to Copenhagen and Ginza to Guatemala. With more than 245 brand stores and 110 studios in 50 countries, BoConcept is located in some of the hippest, most trendsetting locations around the world. Its newest store being in Palladium, Mumbai.

In close contact with the urban disposition, BoConcept develops and designs home furnishings that suit the mindset. Their designs are stylish, and vibrant and in tune with life in the big city.

To help customers in their choice, skilled interior consultants who are passionate about design are always on hand at the store. What we appreciate most is that they take pride in achieving the best results for their customers.



CUSTOMISATION

Customised design means modern, functionally-designed furniture that adapts to the needs and tastes of the customer, wherever he/ she may be staying. The aim is not to change people's lifestyles but to complement them. This finds expression in the many options of modules, legs, colours and surfaces at BoConcept. This means, their customers can make their own customised pieces of design furniture.

BoConcept is the newest addition to the luxury stores at Palladium, in Mumbai. Two storeys high, this designer furniture store makes modern designs available to the urban-minded customer.



THE DESIGN PROCESS

Viggo explains that they have four product managers, and each one of them is responsible for their area of the collection. Based on market analyses and perceived trends – especially consumer trends – as well as the sales in their 250 stores, the brand/ store figures out where they need new developments and designs. These new developments are briefed to three external designers. Finally, they choose the design(s) that match their coordinated collection best, before introducing it into the market.

"We would like our consumers – independent of the collection we introduce – to see the BoConcept sign and realise how coordinated and functional all the furniture is. Know that they are getting a design that is at once affordable and beautiful."
— Viggo Molholm, President and CEO, BoConcept

AFFORDABLE LUXURY

We learnt that it is important for BoConcept to achieve the best quality at the right price. The aim is to spoil the customers by giving them great value for money. You'll find that basic, affordable pieces of furniture nestle comfortably beside the more extravagant ones. But no matter the price, you can trust that everything you see has been carefully selected with special attention to detail, functionality and quality.

"Before we enter a market, a business plan is prepared, containing a competitor analysis, demography, etc...."
– Viggo Molholm, President and CEO, BoConcept



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"The ideal BoConcept customer is young at heart – we do not have an official age group! He/she has got to be design and quality-oriented, looking for a reasonable function behind a beautiful design."
– Viggo Molholm, President and CEO, BoConcept



LOVE THE LOOK!

"In terms of brand association, within the car industry, the closest brand would be Audi."
– Viggo Molholm, President and CEO, BoConcept



URBAN IS A MINDSET

As a concept, "urban design" doesn't mean that you have to live in the big city to fall in love with it. At BoConcept, they believe that urban is a mindset. It isn't about where you actually live. You might be living in the countryside, but in your mind you're urban – appreciative of design and modernity in all aspects of life – also when it comes to furniture and interior design.

ABOUT THE MARKETING PROCESS: THE DECISION TO LAUNCH IN A PARTICULAR COUNTRY/ CITY

"When we enter a market, there must be a certain kind of urban population and demography of the right persons. We have not yet experienced that our taste and price level has not been accepted," explains Viggo (BoConcept is represented in 52 markets, globally, today).



It's a Wrap!

Discover a new way to greet your gifts, especially if they come well packed! We were inspired by Etcetera

Impressions I Aruna Rathod Images I Ronitaa D.





Tanya Anand and Richa Chaudhary who've created Etcetera together share a common passion for all things pretty. They've put their ideas together to churn out creative ways in which one can gift something today. No longer is gift-wrapping just confined to the paper. They show you how to make a pretty package that will probably make you consider giving it away in the first place!



What do you do when your wrapping paper is as interesting as your gift? Or the wine bag in which your wine bottle is presented to you is so pretty that is becomes a keepsake? For Tanya Anand and Richa Chaudhary this became the starting point of a creative venture. The duo decided to make their own prints, colours and designs for their range of products in paper and some in wood. They decided to call their enterprise 'Etcetera' so that it encompasses anything and everything that is decorative.

Stripes, sophisticated florals and designs in classic colours, vivid colours, contemporary graphic elements and popular polka dots – you can get all this and more at Etc. Gift bags, boxes, wrapping paper with matching tags, storage



There's alot you can do with empty gift boxes – use them to display pot pourri or candles, or simply stuff them with lose knick-knacks.

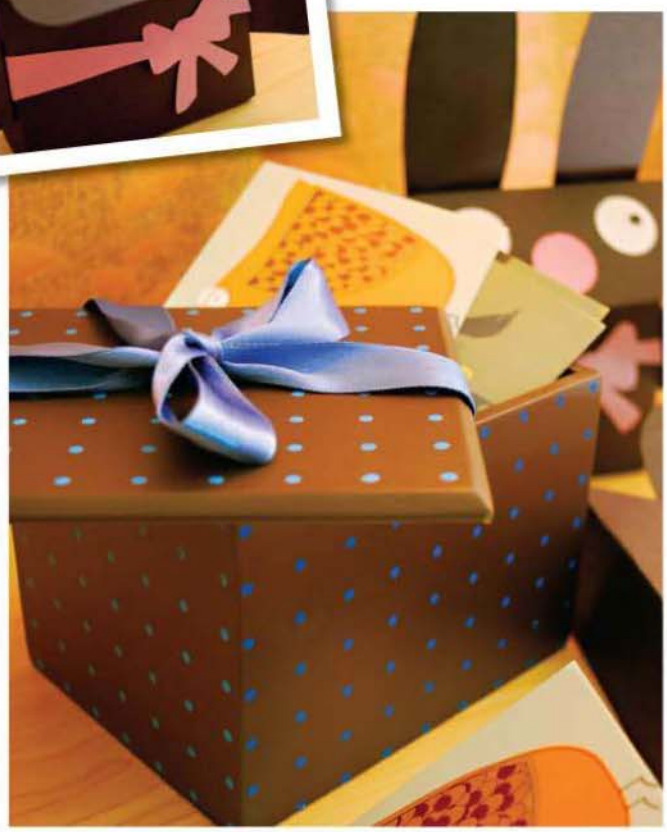
DESIGN WITH BOXES

The appeal of storage boxes with decorative designs lends a retro feel to your interiors. You can choose from floral designs to stripes or polka dots. The décor of a room can be enhanced by placing the boxes at a strategic location for instance a corner table thus lending a touch or curiosity to that area. You can keep potpourri in the box or just place a pillar candle in it. The main objective when choosing this design element is to make certain whatever you select fits into the overall room design. For instance, a very formal room created in a traditional design with muted colors of gold and brown can use simple boxes with either stripes or polka dots. A corner can be decorated by stacking boxes on top of one another. You don't always need to use storage boxes in groupings. You can use a small single storage box on a bookcase shelf, end table or coffee table. Arrange a nest of boxes beside the fireplace at Christmas for a festive holiday look and storage wrapping paper, bows and supplies Loose office supplies can be contained in storage boxes for easy use.





The company has some really innovative designs under their belt that can be the perfect accessories for a birthday party.



DECORATE WITH BOXES

Decorative boxes add a touch of style on your dressing table. Medium sized boxes can be used for keeping trinkets and stationery. ETC designs sets of three boxes in different sizes – the smallest fits inside the larger one, and both go into the still larger one, so that ultimately, the largest box contains the entire set. Such boxes can now be used as accents in home decor. Place them on a shelf in the living room, near an informal seating area or on the bedroom mantle. You can also mix and match the prints for a kitschy look. What's great is that these cardboard boxes are durable if handled with care.

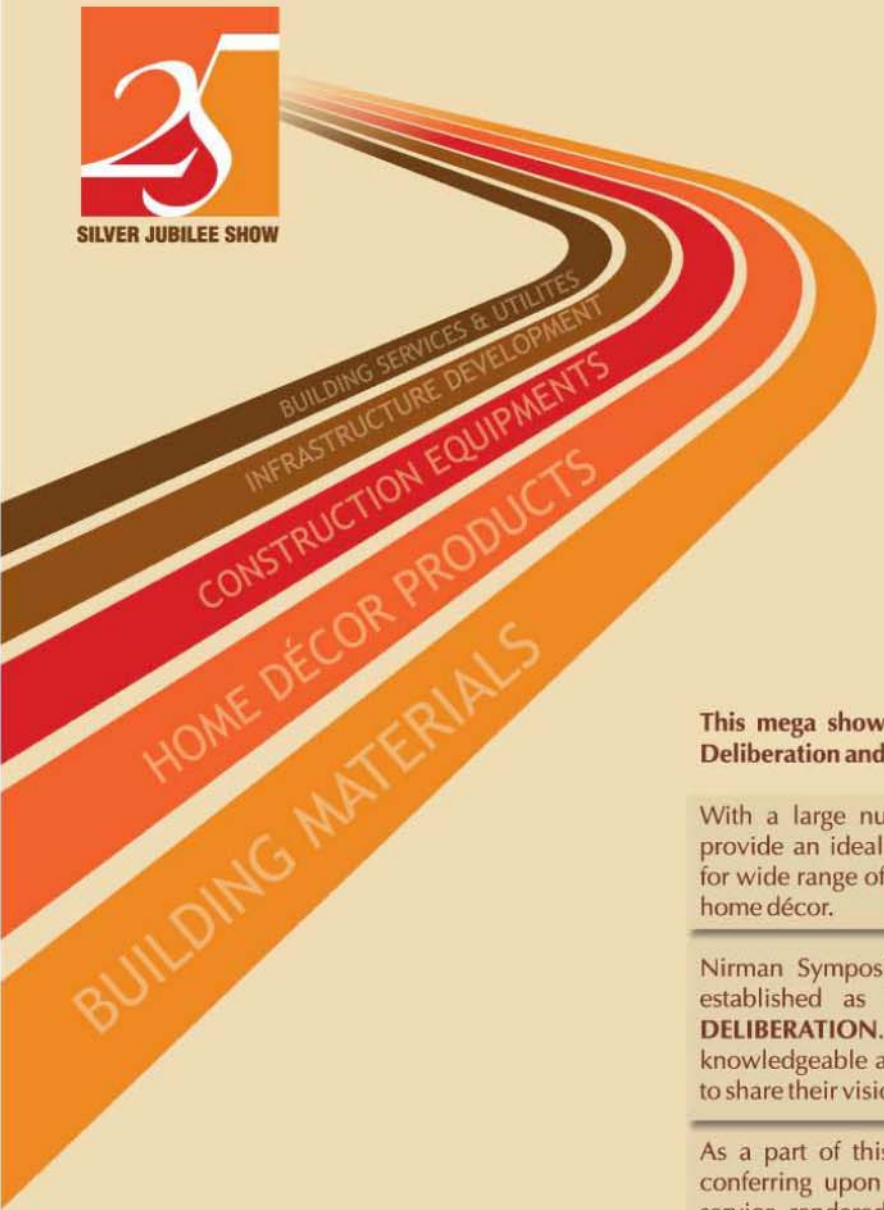
NOTE: Keep away from moisture and sunlight (the colours can fade when exposed to harsh sunlight).

CARE: Just wipe with damp cloth once in a while, to keep clean.



boxes in a variety of sizes, wooden boxes and more. Tanya and Richa decided, "Our paper, colours and designs should be as heartwarming as the gift itself!," Tanya has experience in sales and marketing at five-star hotels while Richa is a trained interior designer from Rachna Sansad in Mumbai. "We have been good friends since 7th grade and both of us love stationery. During our travels, all over Europe, US and Australia, we used to pick up these beautiful boxes, notecards, wrapping paper. When you convert the currency, these are pretty expensive but we just loved to collect them."

The whole idea of setting up their own workshop came when their best friend was getting married. "We had the perfect gift for her. Now all we needed was the perfect embellish just to make it that touch more special. We went from shop to shop but found nothing that impressed or caught the eye. So we thought to ourselves – If you want something done right, do it yourself!"



GICEA

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As a part of this Show, nine professionals will be honoured by conferring upon them, Nirman Ratna Award for the illustratious service rendered in their respective field of activity. This act of **RECOGNITION** will be highlight of the Show and create another set of **Nav Ratna of Nirman.**

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USE BOXES FOR...

- Jewellery and brooches
- Stationery
- Gifts!
- Keepsakes
- Small toys
- Cards and photographs
- Small cosmetic bottles
- Your grooming kit
- Your first-aid kit
- Your sewing kit

After a lot or research, experimenting, and getting-it-right and sometimes not-getting-it-right, meeting people from the industry, meeting printers they tried to understand how things worked. Tanya and Richa brought out a range that was beautiful and accepted. "After a lot of hard work our ideas have finally transformed into an exclusive range of products. Packaging with exquisite paper and pretty boxes, notepads is new in India but it is definitely coming around. It is a challenge for us but we do have clients who want personlised stationery and packaging coming to us. We are carving a niche for ourselves slowly but surely," they say. Their range includes uniquely designed gift wraps, note cards, boxes, bags, gift wrap sets Paper Bags, Wine Bags, Multi Purpose Board and small wooden boxes

"We also tailor-make products in paper, board and wood to suit customer requirements and some of the products we have developed include jewellery boxes, chocolate boxes, calendars, notepads, tissue box holders... . Some clients come to us for personalising their calendars and stationery," they add. Their products are available at the Bombay Baking Company at The Marriott, Ivy at the Club, Loose Ends, Granth, Tresorie, Party Hunterz, Contemporary Arts & Crafts, Bonitas Flores, Temple Tree (Pune) and @ Home (15 stores across India).

DECORATIVE CARDBOARD STORAGE BOXES

Permanent and temporary storage are the two most common reasons for using cardboard storage boxes. However, there are people who also treat them as gift boxes or simply want a box that looks nice making it visually appealing wherever it is placed.



To get in touch with Etcetera, mail Richa Choudhary and Tanya Anand at: etceterastore@gmail.com



we loved their strikingly-designed paper bags so much that we used them as newspaper carriers to lift our mood each morning!

Mother &Baby magazine

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Sculpting Life



Meet Arzan Khambatta, an artist who's inspired enough by the world he lives in to create art so unique it will blow you away!

Impressions I Benoy Sebastian Images I Amit Bhandare





Arzan Khambatta hails from an architectural background – his father is a noted architect and he himself an ex- student of Rachna Sansad Academy of Architecture. After graduating in 1991, Arzan began practising with his father. He was slowly drawn toward sculpting as a way of expression and the art form gradually replaced his formal profession. He says was happiest in the workshop, with all his materials around him. Arzan's artistic instincts took flight when he attended a vacation art class from school – it was under the guidance of noted artist Anand Mohan Naik at the late sculptor Adi Davierwala's workshop.



SCULPTOR

THE CHALLENGES

In the context of the Indian contemporary art scene, sculptures have taken a backseat vis a vis painting. This is evident from the fact that in a group show of 20 artists, you'll find maybe two sculptors, explains Arzan. He also emphasises that sculpting is more cumbersome, and costlier as an art to follow than canvas, ceramic or screen printing. The other major factor is space constraint, which ultimately adds to the small number of sculptors as against the number of painters around today, he says.

SCULPTURE AS AN ART FORM

We have no doubts that Arzan is passionate about sculpture. "It is a phenomenal form of third dimensional art," that he says he relates to. "I have tried painting on flat surfaces, but there is nothing that gives me more pleasure than exploring pure form in all its dimensions." The light, the shadows, the aesthetics and the whole concept of the piece all get him charged up.

THE FUTURE

According to Arzan, the awareness about sculptors and their work in India is minimal. The value of the art is still restricted to its monetary worth. But he does feel that there is light at the end of the tunnel. He sums it up saying, "We still have a long way to go, and people have to recognise the aesthetic value of the art."









"I visualise myself as an artist who is constantly creating. These creations flow out on an imaginary conveyor belt."

STYLE AND MEDIUMS

Working on clay, papier-mache and wood, Arzan's subconscious mind absorbs all the nuances of the medium, while also feeling a tremendous drive towards the basic material itself. The scrap, the incomplete sculpture, the tools and the books, together cast a spell on him. He says, "I visualise myself as an artist who is constantly creating. These creations flow out on an imaginary conveyor belt. At one moment in time, when you pull out a section of these pieces, you will find they are all connected to each other. Thus there is no break point between one show and the next, but rather they flow from one to the other."

Arzan has grown up listening to the music of Pink Floyd. The fact that all the band members have architectural backgrounds add to his fascination. Interestingly, you will find that his works are titled by words and phrases from their mystical and poetic lyrics. According to him, a sculptor is never good at saying what he wants to say and that's why metal and wood act as his mediums. His main materials (which he calls mediums) are all sorts of metal. Arzan adds, "I began with scrap metal, which is mild steel in all forms of broken machinery, construction material, etc.... Then I moved on to mild steel in basic forms like rods, straps, pipes, sheets, etc. I also use coper, bronze, aluminium and wood.

WORK TRANSFORMATION

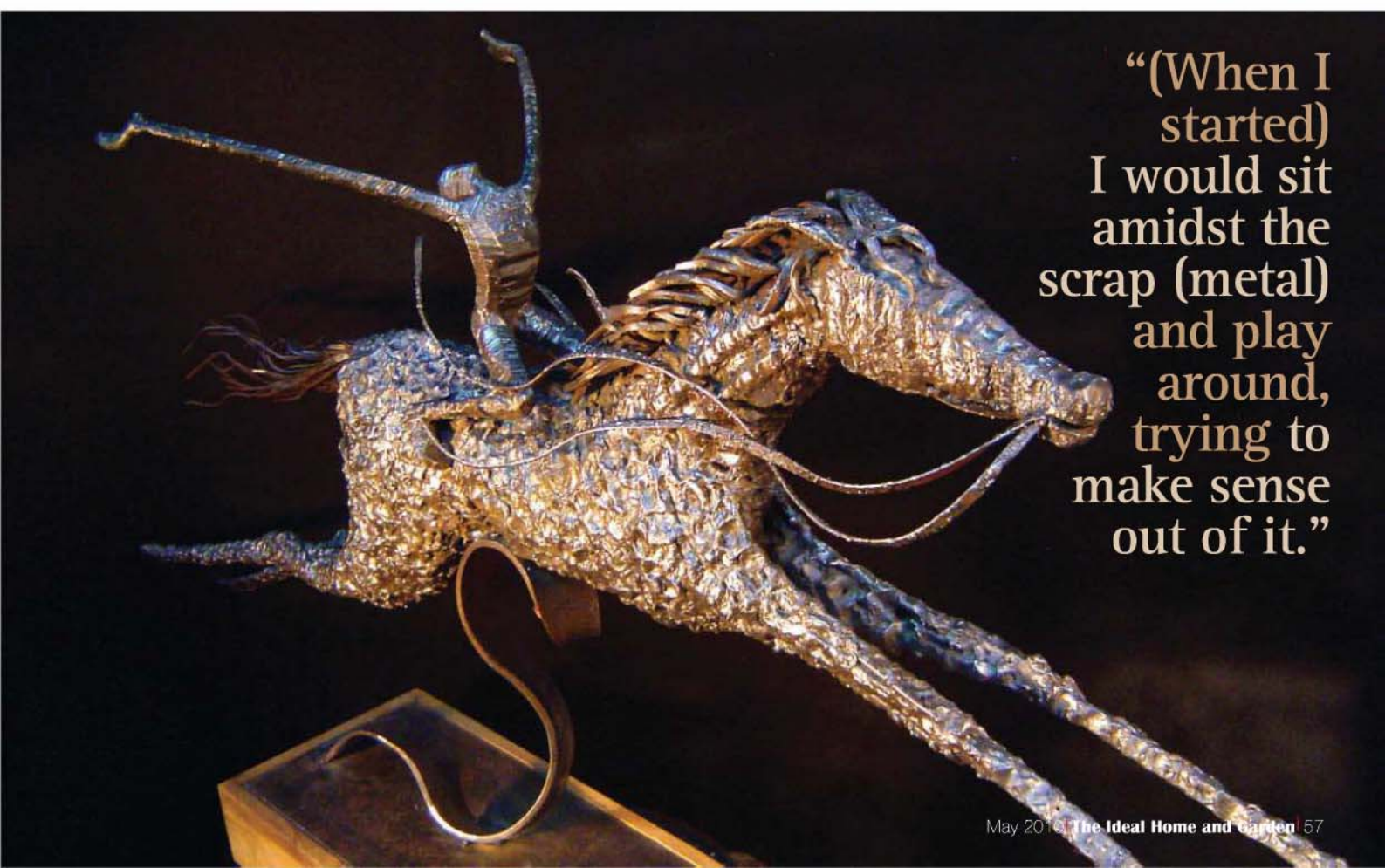
Arzan works in a number of ways. When he first started sculpting in scrap, he had never imagined that he would ever have a fixed subject in mind. "I would sit amidst the scrap and play around, trying to make sense out of it." As far as his work goes, whenever he does a commissioned piece, he thinks of the final product first. Only after the client approves and gives him the green signal to go ahead does he start work on the sculpture itself. Arzan does not work on just one theme at a time. He starts with one project, works on it for some time, and then moves across to another. "In a way," he says, "It's like I am having a dialogue with my own creations."

INSPIRATION

Arzan is strongly influenced and impressed by the people around him. Especially if they are strong, confident, pioneers, inventors and people with a vision. He is also greatly touched by unusual non-cliched personalities.



The wonderful thing about Arzan's work is that most of it compels the onlooker to run his/ her hands along its sensuous form.



FUN IN THE Bath

Banish those overnight blues and bring on the grins in the company of these whimsical accessories in the bath

Impressions I Anaheeta Patell
Images I Mahesh Reddy

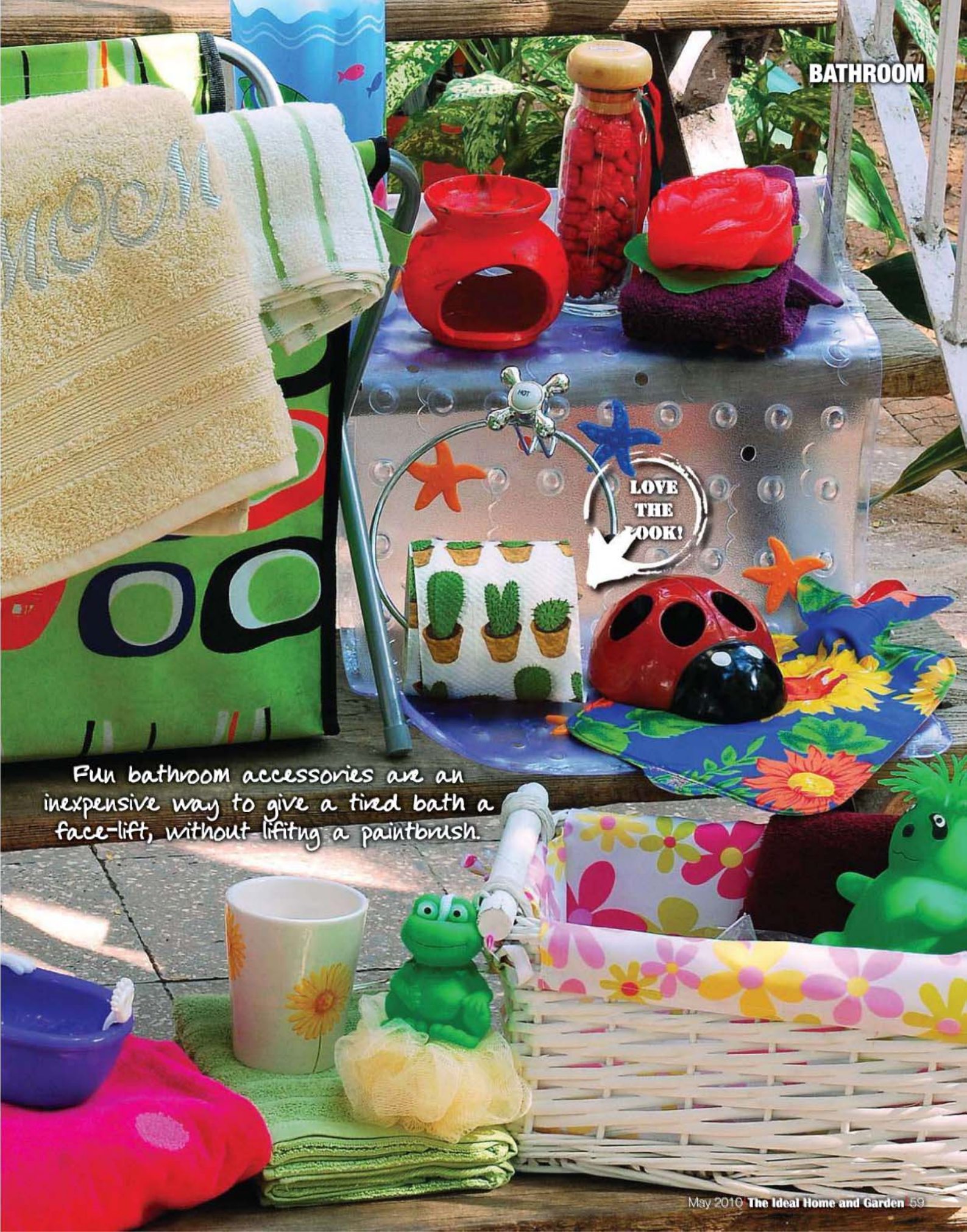


Man in bath tub soap dish, Rs. 60, 3F Designs.

FACING PAGE:
Bottom Step (left to right): Polka dotted kids towel and napkin set in fuchsia, Rs. 649, Westside. Man in bath tub soap dish, Rs. 60, 3F Designs. Hand towels (part of a set), Rs. 895. Sunflower tumbler, Rs. 195, all from Home Centre by Lifestyle. Bath baby frog scrubber, Rs. 85, Dorabjee's. Storage basket, Rs. 445, Home Centre by Lifestyle. Bordeaux wine wash towel, Rs. 60, Maspar. Panda bath toy, Rs. 125, Landmark.

MIDDLE STEP (LEFT TO RIGHT): Laundry hamper, Rs. 699, Westside. 'Mom' bath towel, Rs. 495, Maspar. Striped bath towel (part of a set), Rs. 895. Clear bath mat (in background), Rs. 345. Hot and Cold toilet paper holder (part of a set), Rs. 895, all from Home Centre by Lifestyle. Cactus print toilet paper roll, Rs. 195, Ecoscapes. Hot water bottle in flower print, Rs. 70, Dorabjee's. Ladybird lipstick stand, Rs. 375, 3F Designs.

TOP STEP (LEFT TO RIGHT): Ocean toilet brush and holder, Rs. 395, Home Centre by Lifestyle. Aromatherapy diffuser, Rs. 275. Aroma bath stones bottle, Rs. 750, both from The Bombay Store. Purple passion wash towel, Rs. 60, Maspar. Red rose bath ball scrubber, Rs. 70, Dorabjee's.



Fun bathroom accessories are an inexpensive way to give a tired bath a face-lift, without lifting a paintbrush.



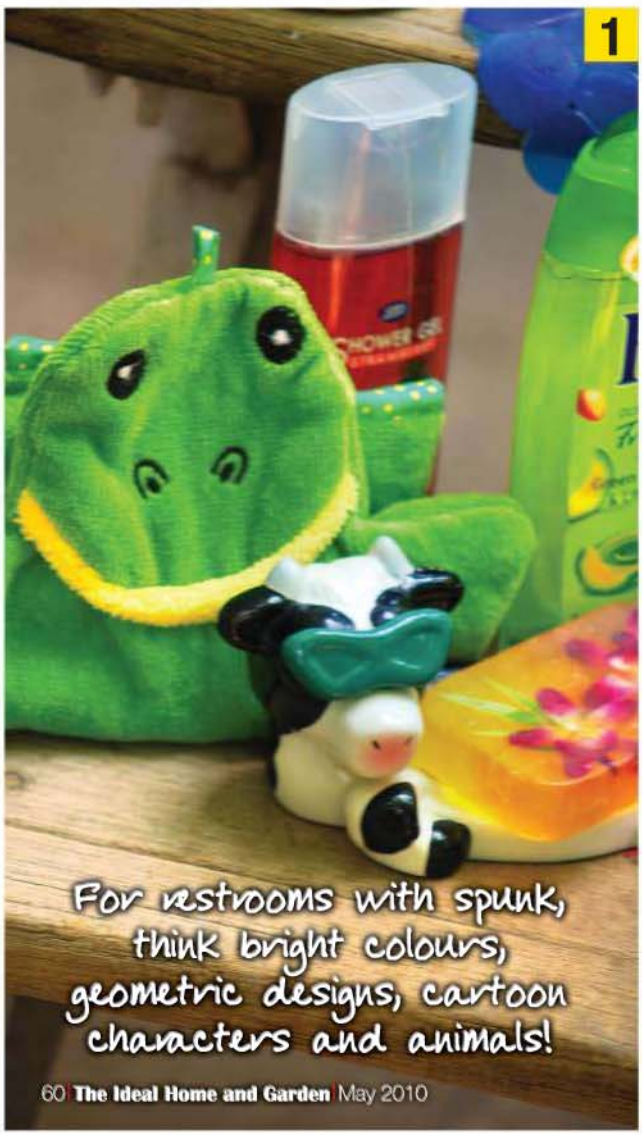
2

Dew drops scented sacks, Rs. 150 each, Home Centre by Lifestyle. Green sponge cloth (part of a set), Rs. 299, Westside. Mao bowl with lid, Rs. 680, Pylones @ Taabir. Polka dotted shower caps, Rs. 25 pair, Dorabjee's. Yellow sponge cloth (part of a set), Rs. 299, Westside. Elephant soap dish, Rs. 495, Home Centre by Lifestyle.

3

Yellow sponge cloth (base), Rs. 45, Westside. Cow liquid soap dispenser, Rs. 295. Bathhouse liquid soap dispenser, Rs. 275, both from Home Centre by Lifestyle.





1

For restrooms with spunk, think bright colours, geometric designs, cartoon characters and animals!

1. Frog sponge mitt, (part of a set), Rs. 399, Westside. Cow soap dish, Rs. 120, The Maharashtra Store. Nezal wood earth flower soap, Rs. 99. Strawberry shower gel by Boots, Rs. 198, both from Dorabjee's. Blue pebbles bath mat (partly seen), Rs. 295, Home Centre by Lifestyle. Green melon and litchi shower gel by Fa, Rs. 184, Dorabjee's.

4. Dinosaur bath mat (base), Rs. 799, Westside. Cow tumbler, Rs. 95, Home Centre by Lifestyle. Bath ball scrubber, Rs. 42 (pair), Dorabjee's.

5. Dinosaur bath mat (base), Rs. 799, Westside. Giraffe toothbrush holder, Rs. 545, Home Centre by Lifestyle.

6. Dinosaur bath mat (base), Rs. 799, Westside. Ship robe hook, Rs. 79, Vividha, Tile wall hooks, Rs. 110 each, Westside. Yellow lotus, Rs. 145, Home Centre by Lifestyle.

4



6



5



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Bottom Step: Laser print shower curtain, Rs. 795, Home Centre by Lifestyle. Terry bath mat in mauve, Rs. 299. Flip flops, Rs. 299, both from Westside. Make up mirror by Bare Essentials, Rs. 80, Dorabjee's.

Top Step: Storage basket, Rs. 595, Home Centre by Lifestyle. In basket: Towel, Rs. 595, Home Centre by Lifestyle. Back-scrubber brush in purple by Vega, Rs. 140, Dorabjee's. Pink basket with handle, Rs. 345, Home Centre by Lifestyle. Neon pink Skin Detox five piece set in toilet case, Rs. 299 (set), Westside. Sisal ball bath sponge by Vega, Rs. 115. Lilac bath scrubber, Rs. 70 (set of 3), both from Dorabjee's.

Stock up on brightly coloured wicker baskets, vibrant ceramics and vivid plastic containers to house your linen, makeup and personal-care items.

MOOD UFLIFTERS!







Top Left:
Kids bath robe in red, Rs. 799, Westside. Soap dish, Rs. 175. Elfin Ocean hooks, Rs. 295 (set of 12), all from Home Centre by Lifestyle. Dino bath toy (part of a set), Rs. 275, Landmark. Yellow bath scrubber, Rs. 70 (set of 3). Teddy loofah by Bare Essentials, Rs. 99, both from Dorabjee's. Orange bath towel, Rs. 349, Westside.

Bottom Left:
Toilet brush with stand, Rs. 1195. Storage basket, Rs. 245, both from Home Centre by Lifestyle. Sunflower shampoo by Boots, Rs. 218. Elephant bath sponge by Bare Essentials , Rs. 95, both from Dorabjee's.

Above:
Top to Bottom: Cuttle Fish shower curtain, Rs. 795, Home Centre by Lifestyle. Frog toilet roll holder, price on request. Printed toilet paper roll by Paseo, Rs. 38, both from Dorabjee's. Flip flops, Rs. 299, Westside. Soap dish, Rs. 95, Home Centre by Lifestyle. Nezal tropical island soap, Rs. 59, Dorabjee's.

For details see Store Map

Shades of **Neutral**

With Summer upon us, white makes a cool comeback

Production | Andrea Newton
Location | The Orchid, an Ecotel Hotel
Camera | Kartikey Shiva



Nalanda table cloth, Rs. 4,250. Ritz tea cup and saucer, Rs. 450. Nalanda coaster, Rs. 350 (set), all from Good Earth. Fan, Rs. 50, Colaba Causeway. Leather cushion, Rs. 2,000, Address Home. Flowers, Rs. 550, Good Earth.

One of the most popular trends for a country home would be using muted shades of white, beige and cream. Keeping it simple and clean with this crisp colour palette, the look for summer is very refreshing. Go for aged furniture in light wood colours, plenty of white bone-china and organic bed linens in neutral shades.

Remember to innovate by adding personalised accessories and dig into your grandma's linen closet to find some old gold treasures. Scan flea markets too, you'll be surprised at what awesome finds you get when it comes to weathered furniture. When you want to work with this trend, think of the foods that go with a country kitchen and then it's easier to come up with a paint palette to begin with. Picture egg shell, cream, bread, wheat, butter etc. and you've got yourself a few good options of paint colours to choose from.

The serene ambience of the rooms at the Orchid, an Ecotel Hotel, Mumbai inspired us with their composed white interiors and use of light wooden accents. We loved the ceramic crockery and rattan and wicker accessories. Check in to get your dose of country pleasure.



Tuberose travel candle, Rs. 950. Geodesis balsam candle, Rs. 2,200. Amritram soap set, Rs. 750. Abahna soap dish w/soap, Rs. 1,200, all from Good Earth. White acrylic tealight holder, Rs. 800

Fill the bathroom with a myriad cream coloured accessories.



Zen limestone dispenser, Rs. 1,100. Tuberose travel candle, Rs. 950. Claus porto floral soap, Rs. 550, all from Good Earth. Scent diffuser, FCUK, price on request.



White leather tray, Rs. 1,600, Address Home. Candle set, Rs. 125, Shell votive holder, Rs. 250, both from HyperCity. Fiza guest towel, Rs. 450. Abahna soap dish w/soap, Rs. 1,200. Amritram soap set, Rs. 750, all from Good Earth. Bangles, Rs. 90, Colaba causeway.

TUCKED AWAY

We love the cosy storage furniture in the rooms at The Orchid. They come loaded with a fluffy bathrobe and designer wooden hangers that gelled perfectly with our train of thought.

Sitara cotton stole, Rs. 4,800. Rangoon basket, Rs. 550, both from Good Earth. Beige towel, Rs. 150, Address Home. Tuberose travel candle, Rs. 950, Good Earth.

Wooden flooring and furniture are elemental in creating an idyllic environment. Stick to light, weathered furniture for an airy look.

Basket Case

It's amazing what a humble little basket can do to a closet. Not only does it add a rustic element to the space, it doubles up as a cute storage unit for towels and other precious tuck-aways.

Dot the dinner table with ceramic fruits, stalks of wheat and mom's tea service. Make sure you have plenty of baked goodies for a hearty high tea.

Ritz teapot, Rs. 1,600. Palm mug, Rs. 425. Ceramic pestle and mortar, Rs. 450. Water lily, Rs.400, all from Good Earth. Ceramic fruits, Rs. 1490 (set). Brown satin table mat, Rs, 2400 (set of 6), both from Address Home.



Basket, Rs. 200, Crawford market. Nalanda napkin, Rs. 850 (set). White damask table cloth, Rs. 1650, both from Good Earth.

China House

Hunt through your grandma's dusty cabinets and bring out her best bone-china, porcelain and light coloured earthenware for a traditional afternoon tea. Linen napkins, organic cotton placemats and a few fresh flowers complete the look. Don't forget your bread basket!



The collection of furniture and accessories by Belle Maison reflect our thoughts perfectly. Browse through www.bellemaison.com for a lovely cooling influence.

Get your shelves and racks painted light for the season. **They'll glow as pretty** highlights on the walls.





Rattan chairs are an eco-friendly alternative to regular dining chairs.

Rattan is easy to maintain, thus making it perfect for the host who loves to entertain. Check out the collection at Belle Maison for inspiration.



Nalanda coaster, Rs. 350 (set), Good Earth. White linen table mat, Rs. 225, HyperCity. Nalanda table cloth, Rs. 4250, Good Earth. Floating candle, Rs. 125, HyperCity.

For details see Store Map

THE FINAL STEP

Planning a 1BHK Home

Architect Priti Shirude-Naik takes us through the final stage of setting up house, from acquiring an apartment to interior design

Images I Mahesh Reddy

You don't need a huge budget to turn your home into a cozy place. All you need is a bit of time and the desire to make it a better place to live in. If you're looking for good ideas to use in designing your house, you can find a lot in the many different stores around. The first thing I thought about was our personal tastes – this was going to be our home, a place where we'd spend a lot of time. I wanted to make sure it reflects our personalities and that we would be comfortable in it.

ACCESSORIES SOURCED

- Vintage wall clock: Hometown, Vikhroli
- Wall hangings: Tresorie, Santacruz
- Vases: Lifestyle
- Furnishings: Kings, Kandivili
- Art and other artefacts: Our travels to Mauritius and Scotland, and handicraft fairs around the country



Our budget was Rs. 7.5 lakh and the total expenses incurred were Rs. 9 lakh!

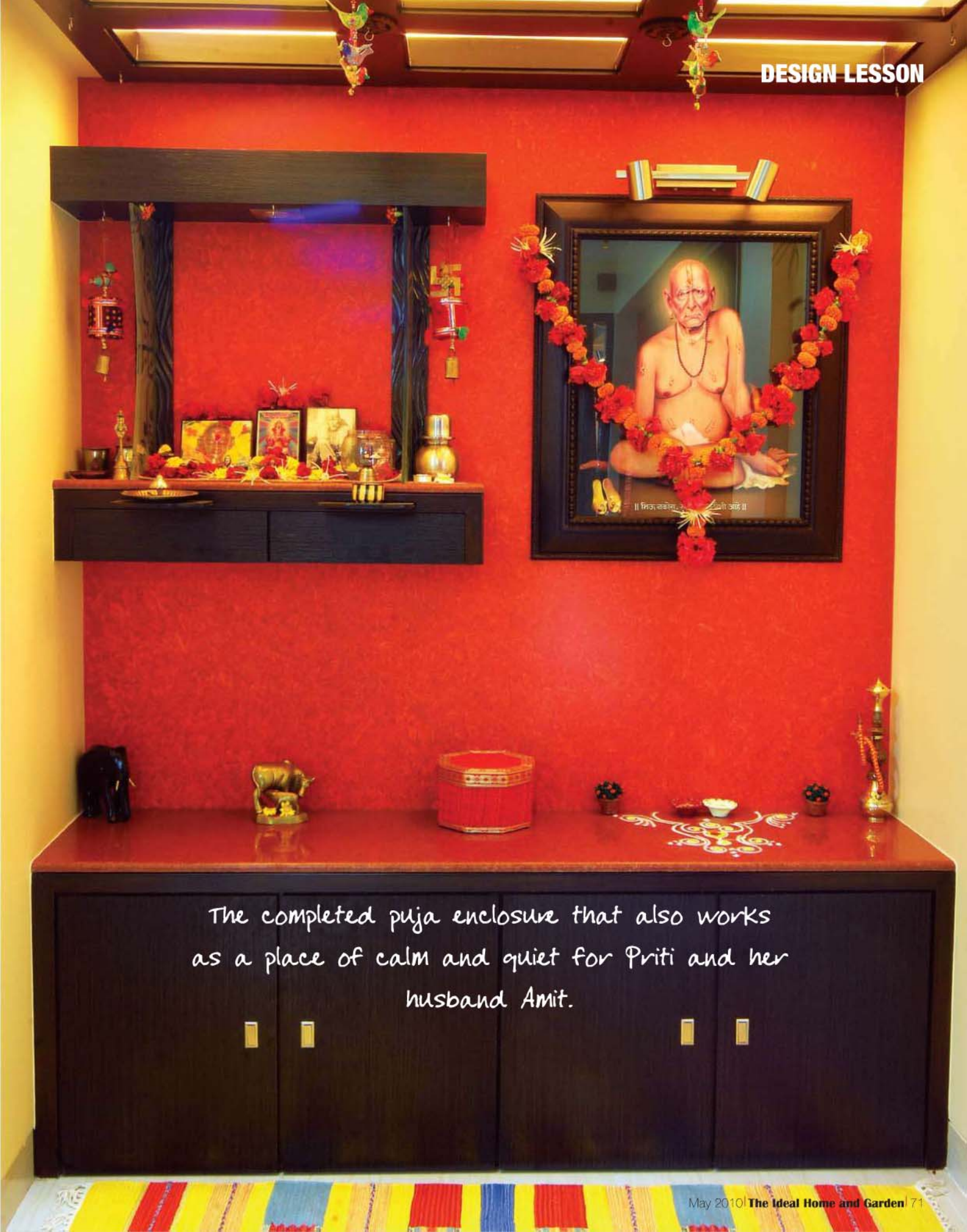
Fact File

Area: 680 sq.ft carpet
No. of people: A couple
No. of rooms: One BHK flat, with enclosed flower-bed spaces

POINT TO BE PROVEN:

A small apartment can converted into a spacious one with the help of good interior design planning.





The completed puja enclosure that also works as a place of calm and quiet for Priti and her husband Amit.





10 MUST-DO FINISHING TOUCHES

* Fill white cement or coloured grout in the joints of tiles. This avoids seepage of water
* Fill silicon in window frames to ensure water-proofing
* Removal of adhesive and paint stains from the furniture and flooring
* Fill white cement in the nahani trap of the bathroom and fixing the trap
* Fill and re-polish granite if required at the end
* Clean the laminates, both inside and outside, with a solution of shampoo and water get this done from the painter
* Check whether all the doors close and lock properly, getting all the keys from the carpenter. Also check all door hinges for tight screws and levelling
* Check the movement of all drawers and kitchen trolleys

MAINTENANCE

Polish Work

Hand polish has to be maintained carefully whereas matte polish – on the exposed areas – needs to be cleaned occasionally with a damp cloth. Since the chosen polish here is dark, it requires regular cleaning because dust can be seen easily.

Paint Work

Since I have used lustre paint, it is very easy to maintain – you can clean the walls with soapy water in case of stains. The textured paint is also lustre.

PREPARING FOR THE RAINS

As Monsoon approaches, you need to be conscious about window openings that face the West. We had silicon filled in the gaps of the windows and the alluminium channels to prevent water leakage and seapage.

FUNCTIONAL FITTINGS

Basic lights, fans: Metro Electricals, Malad
Chandeliers and decorative bracket lights: Chandeliors, Santacruz
Bathroom/ kitchen fittings: Swastik, Ville Parle
Electric gadgets: Vijay Sales, Prabhadevi
Dining table: Hyper City, Malad
Mirrors: Glass Mall, Andheri
Sanitary fittings: RAK Ceramics
Plumbing fittings: Jaquar

The panelling in the living room is done in matte polish, which needs regular cleaning due to its criss - cross grooves.







The kitchen is carpenter-made, complete with internal fittings sourced from Swastik Hardware in Vile Parle, Mumbai.

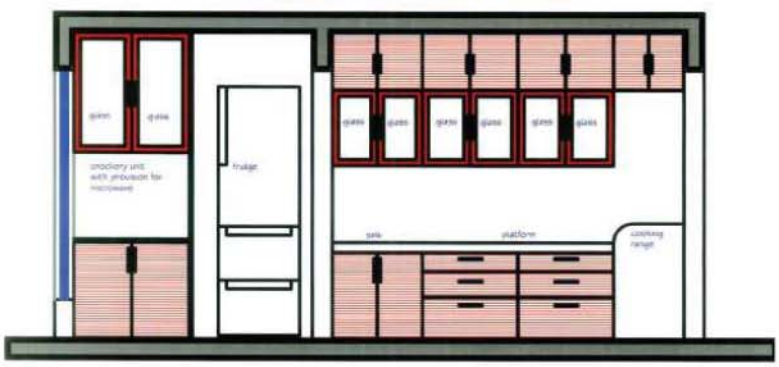






Always plan a five to 10 per cent margin between the estimate and the actual expense

KITCHEN CABINETS SECTIONAL ELEVATION



CORRECT GUESSWORK

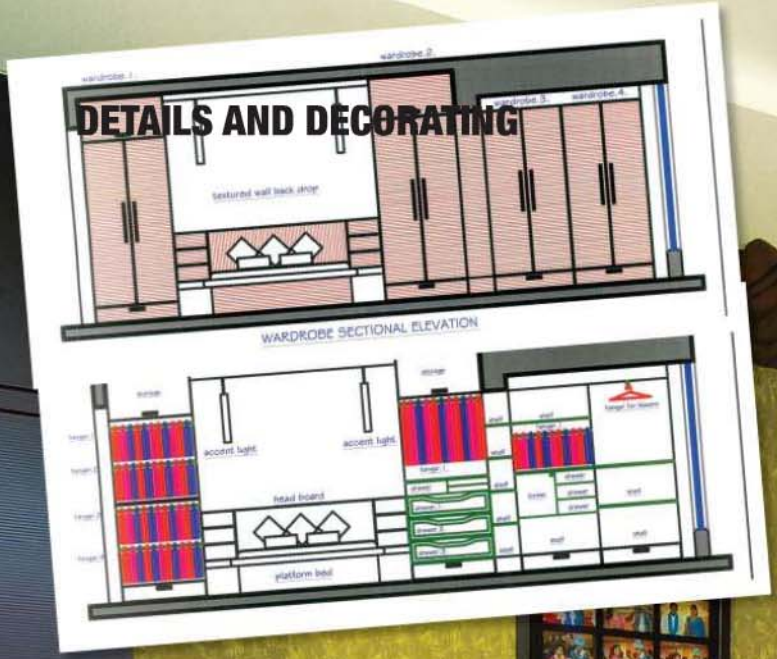
It is very important to take a proper estimate of the work – otherwise you'll be spoilt for choice and overshooting your budget! It wouldn't be a good idea to include accessories in the budget.

FINAL EXPENSE V/S ESTIMATED COST

- Final expense was around Rs. 9 lakh
- Estimated cost was around Rs. 7.5 lakh
- My plan was to reuse the fridge and the television set, but we landed up buying new airconditioners in both the rooms. These were not included in the estimate







The completed bedroom: Priti had all her fittings placed and checked before she made final payments to her carpenter and painters.

BUDGET PLANNING

I spent 10 per cent of the total cost of the project on bath fittings, kitchen accessories and electrical fittings. This cost excludes the air conditioning unit but includes all the light fittings, fans, switches and labour charges.







PURCHASE MANAGEMENT

* You can simultaneously shop for the accessories, but to avoid mistakes you will need to spare the time while the carpenter is fixing them so that you can guide him
* Once the painting job is completed and before the cleaning starts, get all the lights and fans fitted
* All the bathroom/ kitchen accessories and fittings should be done after filling of grout in the tile joints
* Get your curtains, sofas and mattresses brought in after the cleaning job
* After the cleaning job, purchase and get all your electronic gadgets in place
* The WC and wash basin should be fixed before cleaning and after the painting
* You can fit your wardrobe accessories any time you like during the final stage

When it comes to the final payments, keep 15 per cent of the contractor's amount on hold so you can check all the things properly before they leave.

NOTE: This is the third and final part covering Priti's progress with her 1BHK project as she moved from one design stage into the next.

One in a million...



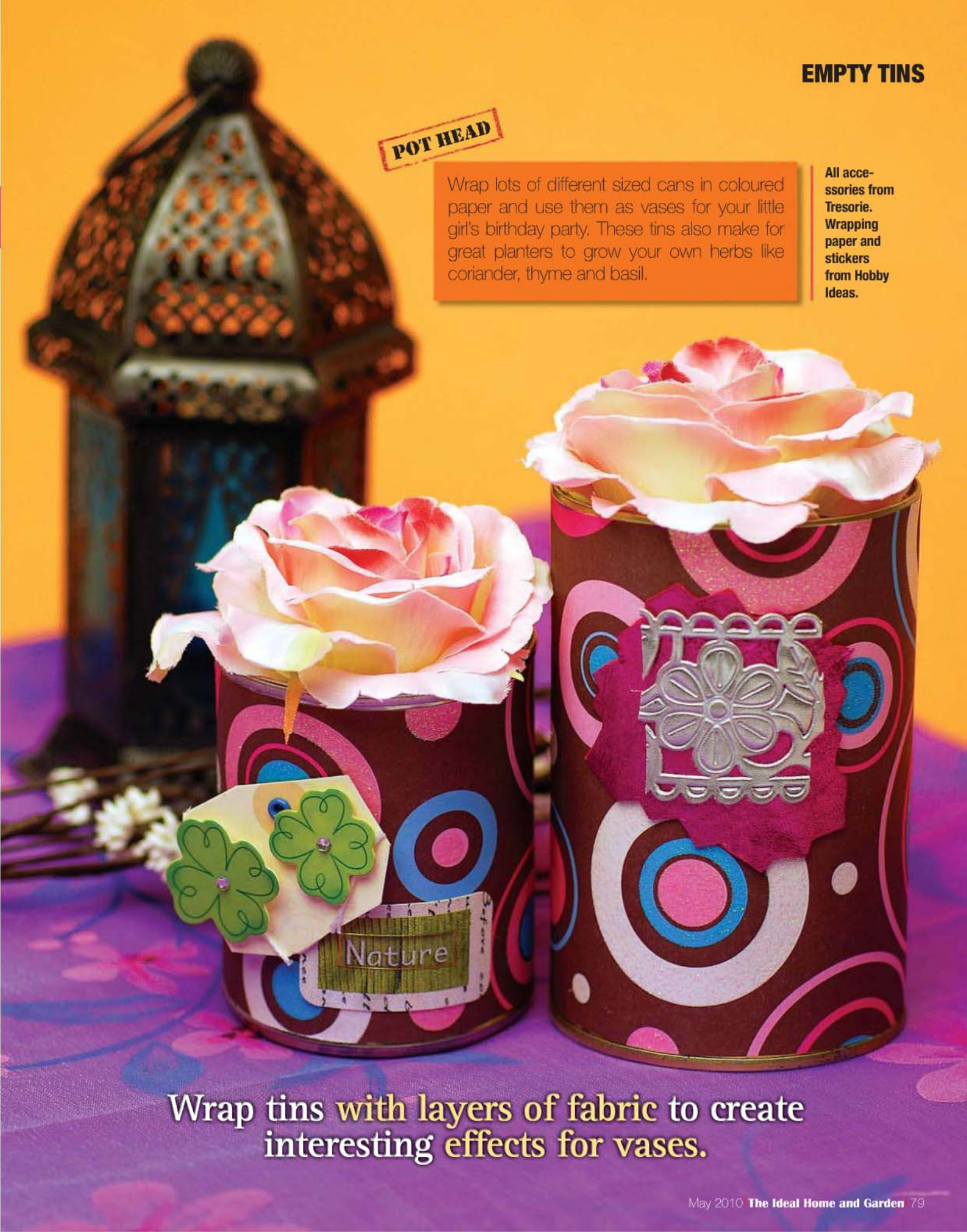
In this column, Features Editor Andrea Newton will bring you ideas that will give old design elements a new lease on decor life.

This month we've gotten candy inspired and used tins to their most colourful advantage to complement your children's party. Make sure you've got a nice assortment of wrapping paper and stickers to make your washed out cans smile for the occasion.

NAPKIN NAP-CAN
Slightly larger tins can be used to hold folded napkins for a light supper setting. You can innovate with flowers, beads and even ribbons .

All accessories from Tresorie. Wrapping paper from Hobby Ideas. Ribbons from Something Special.





POT HEAD

Wrap lots of different sized cans in coloured paper and use them as vases for your little girl's birthday party. These tins also make for great planters to grow your own herbs like coriander, thyme and basil.

All accessories from Tresorie. Wrapping paper and stickers from Hobby Ideas.

Wrap tins with layers of fabric to create interesting effects for vases.

One in a million...

MIGHTY HIGH TEA
A cuppa of herbal infusion is great after a heavy meal. Use a dressed up tin as a cutlery holder for your tea time setting. Keep the colours of the crockery coordinated and you'll never be able to tell that there's an empty tin amidst your cutesy collection.
Accessories from Tresorie. Wrapping paper and stickers from Hobby Ideas.

SEW SO
Another cute little addition to the guest bathroom is this small tin of sweets that is converted into a utility kit. This one holds a mini sewing kit and some emergency first aid. You can be more specific with its purpose by adding a small card on the top. These also make for great give-aways.



Assorted breadsticks can be popped into an empty tin and served with a dip as an appetiser.

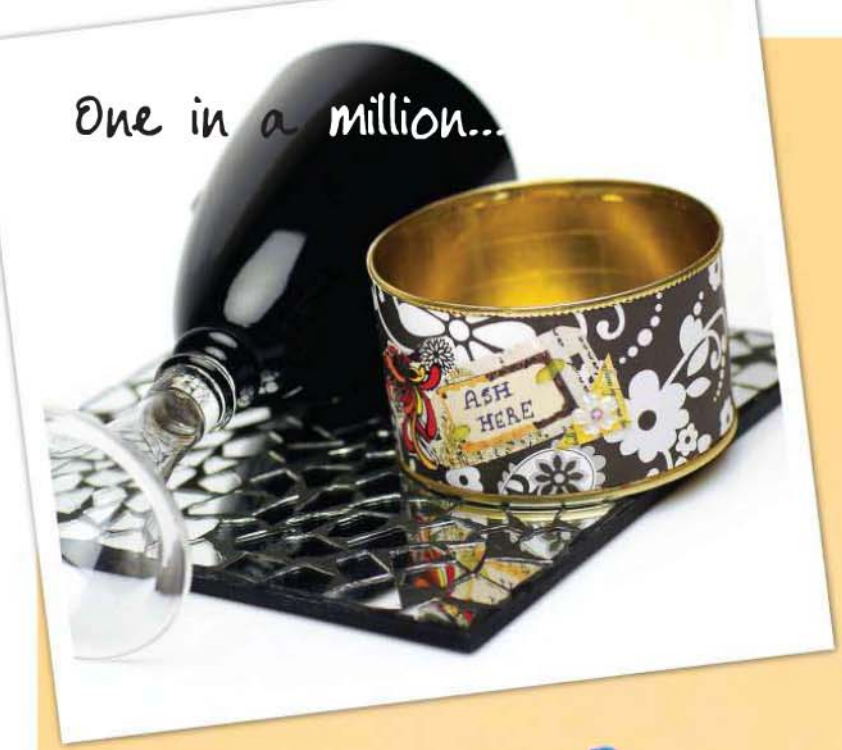


TIN(SEL) TOWN

At the end of a great party it's always nice to give away a keepsake to your guests for memories. We created this uber cute paperweight using an empty tin, wrapping paper, some glittery fabric, a mini mirror ball and a few accessories. You can put little personalised notes on the front saying 'Thanks' or the name of your guest.

Accessories from Tresorie. Wrapping paper and sticker from Hobby Ideas. Butterfly, mirror ball and fabric from Something Special.

One in a million...



MIRRORS AND SMOKE
One of the main concerns when throwing a party is where do people stub their smokes. No one enjoys ashen carpets and a great way to avoid any hassle is to create these ash trays using cheese tins and craft paper. You can place them all over the house without looking tacky and they will keep your guests from ruining your furniture.

Accessories from Tresorie.

DENTAL PLAN

For the guest bathroom, here's a cute toothbrush holder converted out of a slender soda can. You can have as many holders as the number of guests staying over. Adding hand-drawn graphics will give them a nice personal touch. These are sure to brighten up any groggy, hungover morning.



Make sure the tins are cleaned well and dried in the sun for a whole day before you begin to use them.

All Photographs: Mahesh Reddy
For details see Store Map

YOUR PLUMBING PROBLEMS SOLVED!

Write in to us at tihg@nextgenpublishing.net with your queries.

We have a very regular WC and commode. How can we save water without really changing anything in the bathroom?

With the existing fittings and fixtures you cannot save any water. Instead, go for a Geberit concealed cistern. This will discharge 3 liters of water for liquid waste disposal and 6/9 liters of water for solid waste disposal.

What is the best way to get our overhead tank cleaned?

The processes involved for tank cleaning:

- high speed water jet to pluck the hard dirt, bacteria and other pathogens
- Organic herbel solution cleaning.
- Vaccumation of the entire tank
- UV-ray or gamma ray dis-infection process.
- The final vaccumation and de-humidification process.

We want to convert one of our bedrooms into the kitchen. How do we best handle the plumbing? What are the adjustments we will need to make? Is there any major factor that we need to consider?

Sink in a kitchen has to be provided with a long nose tap either with hot and cold water or just with cold water pipe line. Then the waste water line has to be connected with the building drainage system. For water supply 1/2" concealed piping has to be done and floor trap has to be fixed for waste disposal.

What's the best way of using the plunger? Or should I unscrew the kitchen and clean it out, if so where do I turn off the water?

Shut off the main water source pipe for the building and then you can use the plunger.

Most people have the wrong idea about what a plunger is supposed to do. It's not meant to push the clog further down the drain. It's meant to PULL it out, or at the very least dislodge it so that it can go down the drain the right way.

What's the difference in performance between concealed and exposed valves?

Basically, with a concealed valve all the 'stuff' is recessed into the wall, it's more hidden so only the controls are viewable. With an exposed valve, it sticks out a little more; but there is no difference in performance but concealed valves give better look to the bathroom.

GEBERIT



Vivaan Ajmani having fun embellishing a cardboard cut-out of an airplane at the Hobby Ideas store.

Summer Camp @Home

Get crafty to keep your children busy this Summer, if you're not heading out of town for the holidays

Production and Impressions | Anaheeta Patell
Images | Ronitaa D.

Paint Pleasures

Children of all ages love to paint. The great thing about painting with the brood is that each creation is truly a work of art to them...nevermind if you can't tell what it is. As with most kids' crafts, painting is more about the process and the learning than it is about the result. It's a great opportunity to teach children how to think outside the box and use things you wouldn't normally think about painting with. You can use objects instead of brushes, different kinds of paint, colour different surfaces, use templates or stencils or even use parts of their bodies. Painting with children can also be a great way for them to experiment, learn cause and effect and understand colours.

With the long summer vacations stretching ahead, most of us are stuck at home with the kids, having few options and fewer "paid-leave" days left at hand. So how do you occupy the little restless minds and give them something to look forward to every day? Listen to us, give craft a chance.

You'll be pleasantly surprised as to how much fun it can be – it's also great bonding time. And, whether your kid is in the kindergarten or a teen, there's something for all ages and interests.

Craft work can get messy; is hard to organise and requires a lot of patience. But the results are worth it: Your ward is occupied, out of trouble and picking up skills along the way. Coming up with new kid craft ideas is probably the most difficult part of the whole exercise. First figure what is age-appropriate for your child. This can be especially difficult with very young children. But then, you know your child better than anyone, so use your instincts on this one. Crafting with older children can also be difficult because you have to find craft ideas that will keep their interest and be challenging enough for them to keep at.

BEFORE YOU DIVE INTO THE CRAFT

Don't forget to cover your work surface before you begin and put on old clothes or smocks. In addition, use a few drops of dish washing soap to aid in cleanup if there are 'accidents'. Also keep a tub of warm soapy water handy to dip your offspring's hands in if they get a little carried away with their artwork, especially when working with paints, glitter, clay and glue. That way you can get their hands clean before they have a chance to stain walls, carpets, couches, et all. Have your kids wash their hands thoroughly once they're done working. A lot of these substances are toxic and kids notoriously put their hands in their mouths. Have yourself a happy holiday with this gamut of crafting ideas to bond over with your litter!

PS: If you're stuck for ideas, head to a 'Hobby Idea' outlet. It happens to be the county's first chain of hobby stores. They offer a staggering range of over 2,500 products across various categories. And then there are how-to books, videos and workshops to complement the products. Take your kids along for a day of creative handiwork – most stores have a dedicated craft area, with trained staff to assist you.

TROUBLE SHOOTING



Eshaan Ajmani very occupied in creating yet another masterpiece!

DECOUPAGE (Meant for Adolescents)

This is one of those crafts where the completed project is sometimes deceptive – it looks more complicated than it really is. Decoupage can be used to embellish almost anything – furniture, photo albums, scrapbooks, shelves, frames, storage boxes, mirrors, trays, suitcases, dishes... the list is endless. All the skill required is to be able to cut and paste pictures sourced from magazines, catalogues or books. You can also use clip art, photographs, stories and poems printed from your computer (not printed on an inkjet printer - the ink will run), motifs and shapes (cut out from wrapping paper, wallpaper, fabric), greeting cards, post cards, photographs, travel brochures, handbills, pages from old books, foil covered paper, paper doilies, ribbons, posters, dried flowers, tissue paper and more.

Scrapbooking and DIY cards

Kids are always making memories for parents to cherish. Let your children capture some memories of their own with scrapbooking. Channel some of that creative energy into making up an album. Scrapbooking starts with a photo and an idea. What follows is imagination. Help him/ her pick a topic and work on it: It could be around family, favourites, 'colours around me', holidays I celebrate or 'my firsts'. A start-off supply list should include: An album, stickers and cardstocks, die-cuts and cut-outs, fancy edge cutting scissors, embellishments such as buttons, tags, adhesive tiles, etc., an assortment of papers, crayons, colour pencils or paints.

NOT JUST PAINT AND BRUSHES...

'SUBSTITUTE BRUSH' IDEAS: Q-tips or cotton swabs, cotton balls, fingers and toes, rags, sponges, feathers, toothbrushes and string or yarn.

PRINTING/ STAMPING/ STENCILING OBJECTS: Fruits and vegetables, cookie cutters, wood blocks, leaves, lace, body puffs, loofahs and natural sponges, stencils, plastic lids from containers (to make circles) and sponges.

PAINTING TOOLS: Blow paints, squirt bottles, eyedroppers and old toys.

PAINT VARIATIONS: Watercolours, acrylic, fabric and poster paints, paint sticks, wet chalk, flour or starch added to thicken paint, painting with sand and glitter.







PAPIER MACHE

Yes, it's a bit messy and takes a few days to complete a project but paper mache is an easy craft that older children can enjoy!

The paste used is a simple combination of flour and water. Once cooled, strips of newspaper or newsprint are dipped into the paste and applied to a form. The easiest form to use is a balloon, but bowls, plates or even a cardboard box could be utilised. Or then light wire is bent into shapes and covered with paper mache. Two or three layers are added to the form, allowed to dry and creativity comes into play in painting or embellishing your kid's masterpiece!

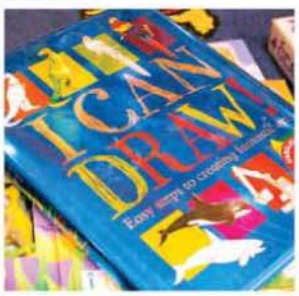




KITS can make jumping into any craft project simple. Ready-made kits can spark the imagination and help get the creative juices flowing; and the options are numerous, available in a range of prices! Some really interesting ones we came across were wood craft assembly, candle and soap making, stamp and coin collecting, chocolate making, etching and colouring on glass, creating a garden, marble art, artwork using scrapper foil, pop jewellery, mosaic work, motor lab, play dough for pre-schoolers and the very popular magician kits.



There's something at a Crossword outlet for all ages! We spotted a gamut of activity and workbooks, craft kits, stationery, CDs and DVDs; board and video games and puzzles. These should keep your children having fun and out of your hair.







GREAT RESULT



Cardmaking is another great way to use expressive scrapbooking techniques. Put all of the same fun tools and items to use making greeting cards for friends and family.

CLAY ART

Creating with clay is a multi-sensory experience that many children (and adults too) find quite soothing. You could even have your offspring make their own clay, though store bought air-hardening clay and bake-in-the-oven clay both work well, and for younger kids use clay similar to play dough which can be used over and over again. Start them off with tools like cookie cutters, old silverware, toothpicks, rolling pins and pizza cutters. It's a good idea to have a finished sample to show the children and to also demonstrate how to begin. Initial projects could be coil pots, hand prints, magnets, beads, spiders, lady bugs, butterflies and other animals. Cook the clay projects in an oven, and then provide paints, glue, beads, glitter and other decorative items for your child to finish their creation. If making beads, give the kids line to make necklaces or bracelets.





Rohaan Bhojwani, a very mature six and a half, having a blast painting on acrylic, ably aided by grandma.



ORIGAMI

The Japanese art of folding paper into objects - origami is a fascinating and creative paper craft for kids, especially if you can find origami models appropriate to their age. Not only will children get a real sense of satisfaction out of making fun models, but they will be getting practice at following instructions, increasing their manual dexterity and producing an enjoyable and decorative end-product.

STENCILING

Stencils are a fun and easy way to add interesting elements to cards, clothing and other craft project. They give young artists and crafters a clear shape to work with, which can boost their creative confidence since they don't have to worry about drawing details. Stenciled shapes are a fun and easy addition to cards, handmade gift paper, quick ornaments or party decorations, clothing, treasure boxes (cardboard and wood), doorknob hangers and any other object you or your kids can think of.

FUN WITH SCIENCE

Physics was never this much fun! Encourage young minds to explore the world of science through hands-on projects. If you're at a loss, pick kits and activities covering scientific experiments, earth sciences and physical sciences. Set your teen off assembling room alarms, cameras, radios, generators, metal and lie detectors, solar and conventional cells, growing his or her own crystal gardens or then building working models of motorcycles and sports cars.



WORKING WITH TEXTILES

Gender biases aside, girls are more likely to take to this hobby. Your little miss will find it a treat to actually wear her own creations, or see them on her dolls. Textile crafts include working with fabric, yarn or surface design. Examples being embroidery, crochet work, knitting, quilting, appliqué weaving and dyeing.







MAKE AND BAKE

Adults and children alike will enjoy a visit to 'Make n Bake' – paint your own pottery studio. Make a selection from over 100 pieces; pick a design, choose your colour palette and aided by stamps, stencils, sponges and idea books you get to paint your masterpiece. Make n Bake fires it in their kiln for you and brings your design to life.

For details see Store Map















PAPER QUILLING

Quilling involves coiling a narrow strip of paper around a narrow object, like a toothpick or straw. Older kids will take 15 to 20 minutes to get the hang of making the coils and forming them into different shapes. These coiled shapes are joined to create design forms. Have the brood embellish cards, paper bags, wrapping paper, book covers, photo albums and cardboard boxes with their works of art.



IDEAL Storage Solutions

All's in its place and there's a place for it all! From batteries to garden equipment, we find storage solutions to all your clutter woes

Impressions | **Anaheeta Patell**

On Display

Create storage that works and looks great, marry function and beauty in organising and storage systems. With planning, a bit of work and some great stylist's tricks, you can easily be your own home storage expert.

Style Your Storage Solutions

Take a picture and you'll quickly see two things: One, where clutter builds up – in which case you can address the problem by putting an organising system in place; and two, whether things on open shelves are unsightly. Find a basket you like, be it seagrass or leather, or buy a few, to tidy up the shelves and create impact. Consider buying extra, as you might not find the same containers later. Continue taking pictures to assess your arrangement every three months.

STYLISH STRATERGIES

In today's world of mass consumption and small homes, we all have copious amounts of 'stuff' and all that stuff needs to fit in somewhere. Create storage that not only works but looks great too! Get ingenious with colourful boxes, retro suitcases, hanging baskets, over-the-door shelves and containers to suspend from your wardrobe rail.



Trunks, suitcases and other empty baggage can be used to organise storage under beds, on top of cupboards and in the loft.

Photograph: Villa Nova

FUNCTIONAL AESTHETICS

BOXY IDEAS

Boxes are a multi-purpose storage solution. Great must-haves for a hoarder's home. Use them for your seasonal clothing or even to hold your baby's out-grown clothes. Old photographs and albums can also be relagated to boxes when not in use. When you're using boxes to stuff your seasonal/ old clothes in, make sure the clothes are aired and cleaned before storing them. It would also do you good to drop a few balls of naphthalene in the boxes before stowing them away.



CAMERA: RONITAA D. BOXES MADE ON ORDER BY ETCETERA.

As for those drawings by your third-grade artist, date each piece and collect in a box. At the end of the year, frame a few favorites and use the rest as wrapping paper or gifts for Grandma.





Mix open and closed storage, and give a thought to what objects are on display.



ARTWORK AND PHOTOGRAPHS

To keep moisture out, wrap framed artwork in polyethylene plastic. Then place in a cardboard mirror box and store upright. For unframed works on paper and photographs, separate each with acid-free tissue paper and lay them in an archival box. It's best to store art in a temperature and humidity controlled space between 18 and 23 degrees Celsius. Too much heat can warp art, and extreme cold can make it brittle. Photographs, of course, are best stored in albums and stacked upright on a shelf or in a cupboard as books.



Sewing Supplies

Use a tackle box to keep that thimble that you just found wedged between the sofa cushions in place. This good old storage box has fly compartments that are perfect for zippers, buttons and trims. You can also hang a bulletin board and pin up bags of spare thread and buttons behind bathroom or storage-room doors.

TOYS

When it comes to storing toys there's just one way to go – systematise. Popular toy storage options that abound in the market today are chests, shelves, bins and hammocks. With the innumerable choices available, they add to your child's room décor too. Do you end cleaning up each play session? Ensure the storage unit is low enough for your children to take the toys out and put them back in themselves. A learning lesson for younger children would be to label each compartment with both the toy picture (for instance, car picture for container designated to store toy cars) and in writing.

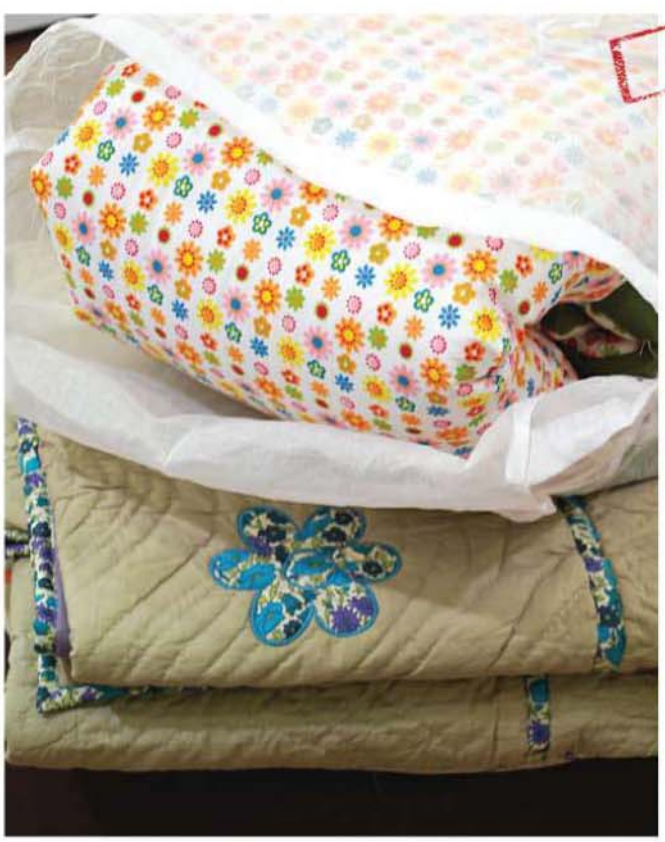




Choose furniture with storage, including sideboards, beds, benches, armoires and tables with drawers or cabinets. And, use the surfaces for display - if everything is behind closed doors, a room can look cold.

OTHER OPTIONS...

- Recycle as many container of various sizes as you can including shoe boxes; plastic diaper wipe, Tupperware, biscuit, ice cream and margarine containers; oats and coffee tins. These can be used to organise small items and parts including small cars, little people kind of toys, beads and crayons
- Use shoe bags to store small items such as bean bag animals and tiny dolls. Hang them on the closet or room doors
- A colourful swath of fabric as a hammock can be used to display stuffed toys
- Suspend mini plastic buckets with handles on pegs for small toys or pieces
- Suitcases make a good storehouse for playthings which are not used frequently slide them underneath the bed
- Wicker baskets serve both a practical and decorative function



QUILTS

How do you store your great-aunt's coverlet, which is coming apart at the seams? Crease marks are the leading cause of textile damage. For safe storage, lay archival tissue paper on top of the quilt. Next, gently fold the quilt and place it in a clean cotton pillowcase. Then put it in a box made of polypropylene and store in a temperature-controlled closet. Very important - Once a year, refold the quilt in a different way on the diagonal, for example to avoid fold lines.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Don't let the roller skates that trip you up each time you venture into your teen's room get to you. Group gear in net bags in a closet or a chest. Old-fashioned shopping rope bags work well here. Stow tennis balls and baseballs in one or a basketball in another, and hang them on hooks. For bats, rackets, and golf clubs repurpose an umbrella stand.



CAMERA: RONITAA D.
STORAGE SOLUTIONS SOURCED FROM VIVIDHA.



Kitchen Aids

Is that whisk nowhere to be found when the sauce comes to the boil? To avoid culinary disasters, keep utensils within arm's reach. Try a ceramic vase next to the stove for wooden spoons, tongs and spatulas. Hooks attached to a rod under your cabinets, help hang implements, ladles and slotted spoons within easy grasp.

CAMERA:
MAHESH REDDY

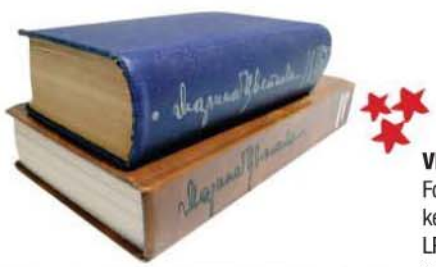


PET SUPPLIES

Contain that graveyard of half-chewed bones and ratty sock monkeys! Consolidate pet supplies in a chest of drawers. Dedicate one drawer or compartment to pet pills and a folder for their medical records. Segregate leashes and collars in a second part. Reserve a third for grooming supplies and the last for bulk dog chews. A great idea we picked up on the net is to use a dry-erase board to note important dates, like the most recent tick treatment, etc....

BOOKS

Cardboard boxes are ideal for storing those dog-eared romances that you don't want to display but can't bear to part with either. Plastic bins trap moisture, causing paper to wrinkle and glue to weaken. Set books in boxes side by side, alternating them so one spine faces down and the next spine faces up. Don't stack books on top of each other, the covers and pages can warp. Wrap valuable books, like leather-bound ones, in Mylar sheets (polyester film or plastic sheet) and then store the boxes in a closet free of temperature fluctuations.



VINYL RECORDS/ LP'S

For a collector of vinyl records, condition is key. Extend the life and playability of your LP's with these rules of thumb - don't store near sources of heat such as direct sunlight or artificial lights, heat will cause your record to warp. A constant temperature of 15 to 21 degrees Celsius is preferred. Avoid mould or mildew by storing your collection in airtight surroundings such as a cabinet or in sealed boxes. Never stack one on top of the other. Always store your vinyls in a vertical position and don't be tempted to squeeze in too many records into too small a space.





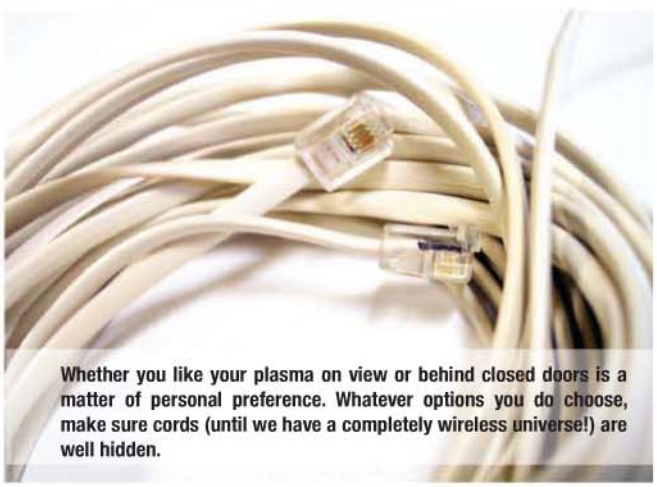
If you've chosen a method of storage that's open and on view, be fussy about things like how the bowls and plates are stacked.

China

Use heavy-duty plastic wrap to store that inherited, ancient china which is not aging gracefully. Wrap plates individually and stack up to eight before securing them tightly with the wrap. Your dishes won't budge, and they'll be protected from dust, so there's no need to wash them before using. Stow the stacks in a cupboard or a low-traffic corner of the attic. For fancy wineglasses and champagne flutes, consider commercial-style dishwasher racks with individual compartments. Load up and wrap in plastic so everything stays safe and clean.



The best toy storage solution is one in which children as young as three can put away their own toys. A smart idea would be units available in varying styles with accessible bins so kids can see which toys are where. Enclosed bins may look nicer, but require some looking around before children can find the toys they're looking for.



Whether you like your plasma on view or behind closed doors is a matter of personal preference. Whatever options you do choose, make sure cords (until we have a completely wireless universe!) are well hidden.

Electronic Cords

Bundle that rat's nest of wires under your desk, out of sight line with Twist Tie, Velcro tape or then buy yourself a funky cord organiser (check out the Mukul Goyal designed Wijo – the wire jockey). You can make your own cable corral out of the cardboard tube from a roll of paper towels: Using scissors slice the roll down one side and then wrap the tubing around the wires to keep them neat.



CAMERA: RONITAA D.
STORAGE SOLUTIONS SOURCED FROM VIVIDHA.

RECYCLE, REUSE, RESTORE...

Schedule a day every six months to sort through toys and clothes with your child. Have three labeled bins ready, one for storing toys to keep but that aren't played with often, a second bin for stocking outgrown clothes that you want to save (labeled with size) and a third bin for donating to a worthy organisation. Or don't wait for every six months...adopt a policy of 'one toy in, one toy out', to keep numbers under control.

A toy box makes for a great storage location for blankets and extra diapers in a nursery, and of course for toys as your child grows. Unfinished wooden toys boxes which the kids can paint up themselves are the perfect canvas for creativity.



GARDEN TOOLS

Use the old 'sand in a bucket' system for your garden tools. Fill a bucket up to three-fourths of the way with sand. Add some motor oil (used oil works just fine) and then plant the tools in the bucket. This method keeps them oiled and debris-free while also helping them hold their edge a little longer.







Grandpa's bell jar solution for nuts and bolts - sometimes what worked eons ago still does the job perfectly well today





TOOLS

Keep all power tools inside the house, in a tool box. In the garage or basement, moisture can cause rust and damage to your tools. Plus, if your tools aren't easily accessible, that gives you one more reason to procrastinate on projects.

NUTS AND BOLTS

Contain all those loose thingamabobs in jars. Grandpa's wood-shop solution of attaching glass jars underneath a table or a shelf is best for this one. Nail the lids to the underside of a surface where you store your tools, then twist the jars into place. Put like-size nuts and bolts in one jar and wood screws in another. Also attach an empty jar so that when you're working on a project, you can keep the hardware for it in one place.

Knives and Scissors

If you're scared to reach into the kitchen drawer, get some knife guards for every knife. Stack them next to one another to avoid damage. Short on drawer space? Hang knives on a wall-mounted magnetic strip near where you're going to cut. And, if a knife block is your preference, the slots should be horizontal so the knives slide in parallel to the counter rather than resting on the blade edges, which can dull over time. Ditto, when storing scissors.

NOTE: Organising doesn't mean sterile. Don't leave out beautiful objects that you enjoy looking at. When you plan for storage, include display spaces for candles, vases of flowers, a few books, rotating stacks of CDs beside the stereo, books, magazines and the like. Also, don't go overboard with built-ins; choose freestanding furniture with storage, style and personality to supplement your built-in storage.



MAGAZINES
Consolidate your prized collection of magazines, which have gone yellow and wavy with age. Bind the stash into one or more hard covers. If you want to keep articles only, look out for a software program that catalogues and stores clippings.

JEWELLERY
Give each piece a proper place. Since diamonds can scuff pearls and chunky silver can scratch 18 and 24-karat gold, don't jumble up your jewelry. A hanging jewelry organiser is a great way to go. It holds a lot and takes up hardly any space in a closet or luggage. A jewelry designer recommends putting each trinket in a separate zippered plastic bag. Wrap each necklace around a piece of cardboard to avoid tangles, then, if you're storing the jewelry in a drawer, place the bags in a padded envelope for extra protection.





INCOMING MAIL
Don't let junk mail past the foyer. Keep a pretty recycling bin and a mini shredder by the front door to make daily sorting easy.

LIGHT BULBS
Keep bulbs in the original packaging. It will protect them from breakage. This is especially important for compact fluorescent light bulbs, which contain mercury. If you've thrown out the packaging, place bulbs in a shoe box lined with bubble wrap or tissue paper. Temperature does not affect the performance of bulbs, so you can store spares in the garage or the basement if you don't have room in a closet.





Don't avoid organising utility areas. They're the backbone of the house. Highly functional laundry and storage rooms will keep your house working like a well-oiled machine.

Batteries

The best way to store batteries is in their original packaging in a drawer not, contrary to popular belief, in the refrigerator, as condensation can cause damage. Secure loose batteries with a rubber band. Make sure all the positives point the same way. If the terminals touch each other, the life of the batteries can be shortened. And be sure to put them in a plastic bag so they don't touch metal objects, like keys, which can cause electrical shorting.

Honey, It Stinks

Organising is the key to living well, and that includes your garbage!

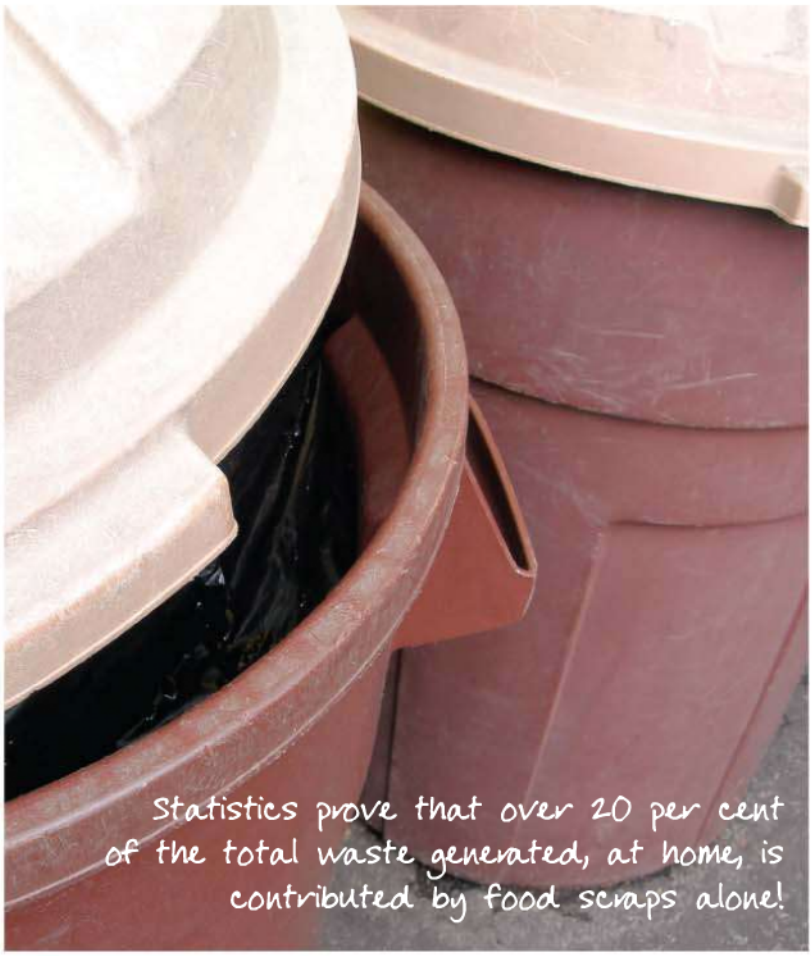
Impressions | Benoy Sebastian

How many of us give any thought to the amount and kind of garbage our home generates? Really, does anyone? According to our research, the number of conscientious households in our country is appalling! So much so that most people don't even know the difference between bio-degradable and non bio-degradable waste. Now here's a reality check: If not disposed off properly, garbage could prove to be a hazard to you and your neighbours.

THE NEED FOR GARBAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

When it comes to generating garbage within your home, your kitchen wins hands down. From food refuse, vegetable peels, leftovers to grocery wrappers and packaging, almost all the household waste is manifested at the cooking and dining areas. Moreover, statistics prove that over 20 per cent of the total waste generated, at home, is contributed by food scraps alone! Garbage disposal units therefore form an integral part of your kitchen corners and have to be accommodated in a manner such that they keep the kitchen clean, fresh and dry.





SOLUTIONS, RECOMMENDED BY HAFELE INDIA

CONCEALED SYSTEMS: For preferences towards concealed waste disposal systems, Hafele has a special range of waste bins for inside drawers and built-in bins for cabinets that are easy to access and help maintain the basic hygiene of the kitchen. The waste bins for inside drawers slide out along with the drawers and are firmly positioned on a base plate that avoids the bins from slipping. A combination of two or more bins is also possible in case of drawers with widths ranging from 450 to 900 mm.

BUILT-IN BINS: The built-in bins for under sink cabinets are available in high grade steel as well as eco-friendly plastic. They come with a holding capacity ranging from 13 to 70 litres. These bins can be extended fully and they are smooth to operate even when they are full. Once pulled out, the lid of the bin stays inside the cabinet so that one can easily dispose of the waste without any hassle. These bins are easy to install and they are ideally fixed under the kitchen sink unit. The latest addition to this range is the Big Boy double waste bins with a holding capacity of 70 litres. The high storage capacity of these bins allows the user to take full advantage of the inner cabinet room and ensures high levels of space efficiency.

WORK TOP BINS: One of the most unique types of waste bins offered by Hafele is the worktop waste bins unit. These bins score high on functionality as they make optimum use of kitchen space. They are installed on the kitchen worktop for easy access. They are used to dispose the waste produced while cooking by sweeping it into the bin directly. For instance you can sweep the peels directly into the worktop bin after chopping vegetables. Worktop waste bins come with a removable eco-friendly plastic bucket inside. These waste bins are available with a holding capacity of 11 litres.



THE INNOVATION

Hafele India, the innovators of functionality, has an extensive range of kitchen waste disposal solutions that are easy to accommodate, easy to access, hold higher waste capacities. What's great is that they are available in different shapes, sizes and finishes that can be embedded within your kitchen design and layout.

HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS AND WASTE

Most household products are not harmful if used according to label directions. However, they can become harmful if used, stored, or disposed of improperly. Most of us dispose hazardous products in the trash or by pouring them down the drain. This can be dangerous! Waste from hazardous products can contaminate lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater (the places below the ground where water accumulates before it goes to a river, stream or well).



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HOUSEHOLD WASTE IS...

Poured in ditches, drains, or gutters: If you pour hazardous household waste in ditches, drains, or gutters, it can poison plants and wildlife, contaminate the soil, and harm children and adults who come in contact with it. When it rains, the hazardous household waste travels directly to nearby streams, rivers, and lakes.

Burned: If you burn hazardous household waste, you risk producing poisonous fumes, contributing to air pollution. Controlled burning in special hazardous waste incinerators are one of the best disposal method. Open burning by an homeowner is not. Some hazardous materials may not burn away completely and become concentrated in the ash; others can pollute the environment.

Dumped or Buried: If you dump or bury some types of hazardous household waste, they may contaminate the soil or water, especially if the waste is persistent or non-biodegradable. Children, pets, and wildlife may be exposed to such an hazardous household waste.

Stored:Storing a hazardous household waste indefinitely is not at all a good solution. Containers and their contents degrade with time (especially during summer). Labels get lost, and the chances of children or pets finding the hazardous waste increases when waste is stored for long periods of time. However, storage may be the safest temporary option if there is not a safe and organised system in your house to handle hazardous household waste.

USEFUL RECOMMENDATIONS

Label Instructions: Some labels give disposal recommendations. Read the label carefully and follow the manufacturer's guidelines.

Use It: When products are fully used up as intended there is no hazardous waste. Buy only as much as you need. Do not buy a litre of paint, pesticide, or specialty cleaner when only half a litre will do. The large container may cost less for you in terms of money, but either leftovers must be stored or disposed of with immediate effect so as not to harm people or the environment.

Recycle: Recycling means reusing the potential waste. Recycling helps reduce the overall demand for hazardous household products and the amount of waste produced.

Donate: Donate old clothes, food items packed in a tin, household cleaners, or other products to a local charity or service organisation. But such items need to be in original containers/ bags with labels

Down the drain: Some hazardous household wastes can be flushed down the drain as long as they are followed by plenty of water. This recommendation applies if a hazardous household waste will be neutralised by water or if the municipal or sanitary sewage system is able to remove the toxins or render them harmless.

Remember:

- There should be adequate ventilation in the area where you are flushing the waste
- Do not dispose of chemical wastes in the food preparation area
- Pour slowly and carefully to avoid splashing
- Flush wastes using a large volume of water
- Rinse the empty container with water before placing it in the trash



GARBAGE DISPOSAL



BENEFITS OF KITCHEN WASTE

- It can be used for biogas
- Gobar gas can also be made from kitchen waste
- Solar heaters can be prepared
- Leftover vegetable and fruit peels and raw food can be converted into compost for fertilising crops and vegetable gardens

ENERGY FROM HOUSEHOLD WASTE

A large amount of biodegradable waste is generated everyday. It is estimated that about 400-500 gm of biodegradable waste is generated per person per day in India. In our country where overpopulation has resulted in massive deforestation and fuel shortages, biogas generated from household waste is the best option for generating energy.

There is no need to let kitchen waste go 'waste'. A kitchen waste based biogas plant can generate enough energy to meet your basic household needs. This plant works on similar principles of a traditional gobar gas plant. The waste generated in kitchen in the form of vegetable refuge, stale cooked and uncooked food, extracted tea powder, waste milk and milk products can all be processed in this plant. Success of this biogas plant depends a great deal on proper segregation of the kitchen waste. The materials that can pose problems to the efficient running of plant are coconut shells and coir, egg shells, onion peels, bones and plastic pieces.

While bones, shells and utensils can spoil the mixer physically, onion peels, coir and plastic can have detrimental effects on microbial consortium in the pre-digester and main digestion tanks, which could lead to malfunction of the plant. Thus the efficient disposal of kitchen waste can be eco-friendly as well as cost effective. While calculating the cost effectiveness of such waste disposal you have to consider more than the monetary aspects. The dumping of uncooked food in unmanned area may not be very civilised. It can also lead to population growth of animals such as dogs and cats. It is undoubtedly unhygienic and can pose threat to the environment.

THOUGHT PROCESS

It would be difficult to eliminate all the hazardous products from our lives. However, we can minimise environmental problems from improper use by:

- Comparing labels and contents when buying. If a less toxic product will work just as well, buy it
- Buying only what is necessary. If there is no leftover product, there is no waste to store or discard
- Using products according to label directions
- Using non-toxic alternatives
- Never mixing products. Dangerous reactions can occur

Use separate bins to collect dry and wet waste and to dispose off packaging materials like plastic, foil and polythene.



Inputs:
Hafele India Private Limited
L.P. Naik (Iss HiCare Limited)
Shyam Balsekar (Linear Technologies)



STIR-FRIED NOODLES

INGREDIENTS

200gms flat rice noodles, 20gms broccoli, 20gms chinese cabbage, 20gms pok choy, 20gms three colour (yellow, green and red capsicum) bell peppers, 10gms onion, 10g carrots, 10gms Snow peas, 20gms zucchini, 10gms chopped ginger, 10gms aromate powder, salt to taste, 20ml oil

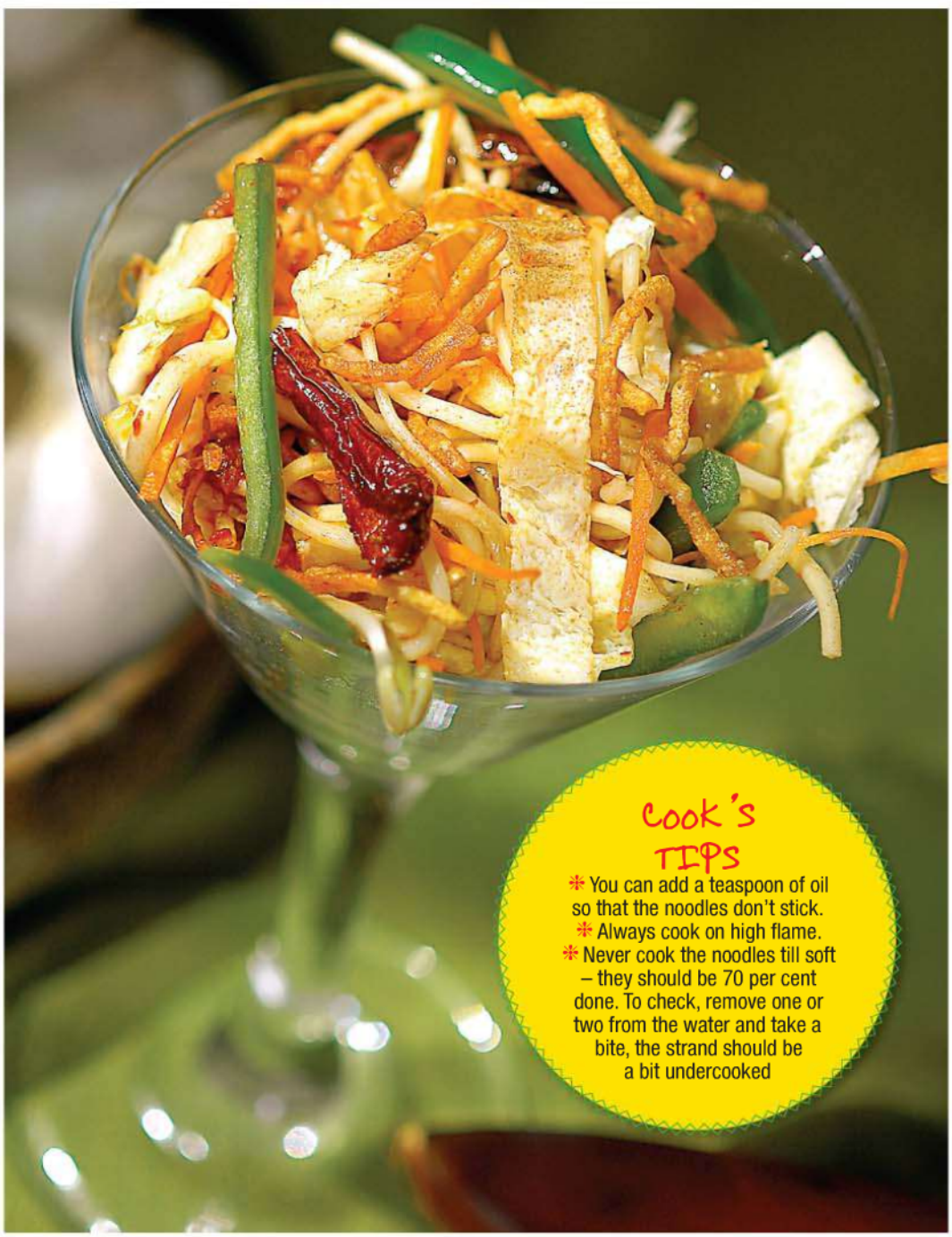
METHOD

- Dice all the vegetables and blanch them
- Head oil in a wok
- Add chopped ginger, add all the vegetables,100ml stock
- Add aromate powder, salt and boiled rice stick noodles
- Adjust seasoning cook for 10 seconds.
- Serve hot

COOK'S TIPS

❉ Always heat enough water and wait till it boils, before adding the noodles. ❉ The noodles should be completely immersed in the water. ❉ It's best to add salt to noodles cooking in water shortly before it comes to a boil – salt adds flavour and ensures firm strands.

Strings of Fancy



We experiment with noodles for a light, Summer meal

Preparation | Executive Sous Chef Suresh Shetty, Asian Kitchen, Four Points by Sheraton
Impressions | Aruna Rathod
Camera | Amit Bhandare

Cook's TIPS

- You can add a teaspoon of oil so that the noodles don't stick.
- Always cook on high flame.
- Never cook the noodles till soft – they should be 70 per cent done. To check, remove one or two from the water and take a bite, the strand should be a bit undercooked

CHILLI GARLIC NOODLES

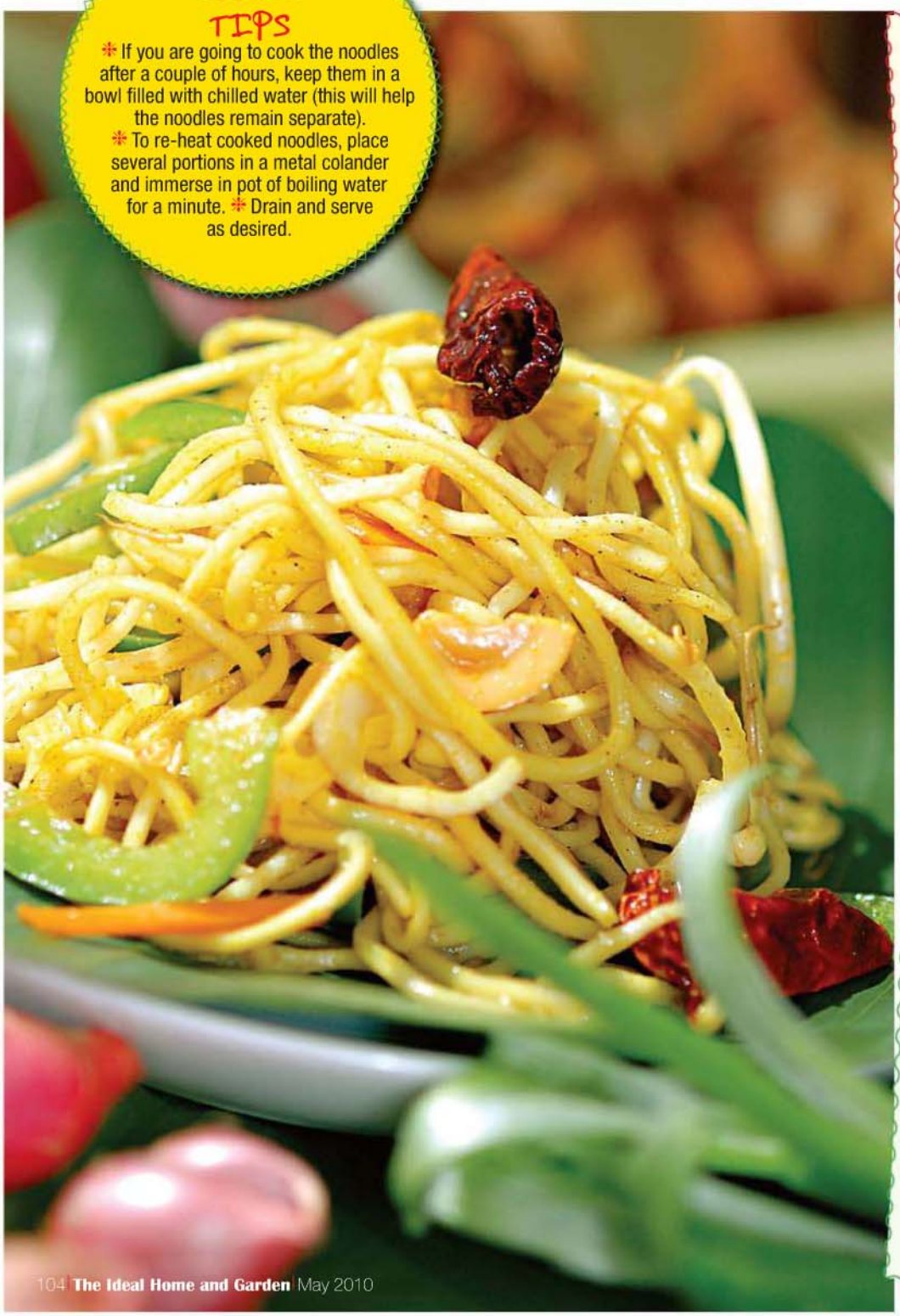
YOU WILL NEED...
250gms boiled noodles, 50gms juliennes (cut into long thin strips) of onion and capsicum, 50gms julienne carrots, 10gms chilli paste, 30gms chopped garlic, 1tsp light soya, 1tsp aromate powder, salt to taste, 10ml oil, 2 eggs

METHOD
- Boil the noodles and keep aside
- Prepare a fried egg omelette cut into juliennes and keep aside
- In a wok, heat oil, add chopped garlic and saute it for 20 seconds
- Add onion, capsicum cook for 30 seconds on a high flame
- Add noodles, chilli paste, light soya sauce and aromate powder
- Add fried egg juliennes
- Adjust seasoning and serve hot

For a healthier option try wheat-based noodles instead of rice noodles.

Cook's TIPS

❉ If you are going to cook the noodles after a couple of hours, keep them in a bowl filled with chilled water (this will help the noodles remain separate). ❉ To re-heat cooked noodles, place several portions in a metal colander and immerse in pot of boiling water for a minute. ❉ Drain and serve as desired.



SINGAPORE NOODLES

YOU WILL NEED...

200gms boiled noodles, 20gms hot curry powder, 2 dry kashmiri chillis, 30gms cashewnuts, 20gms chopped garlic, 20gms chopped ginger, 20gms chopped onion, 30ml chilli oil, 20gms chilli paste, 1tsp aromate powder, salt to taste, 1tsp sugar, 20gms beansprout, 20gms julienne carrot, 20g ms cabbage, 20gms onion, 20gms capsicum

METHOD

- Heat chilli oil in a wok
- Add garlic, ginger, onion,cook for 10seconds
- Add all the vegetables, soya sauce and all the other ingredients one by one
- Adjust seasoning and serve hot

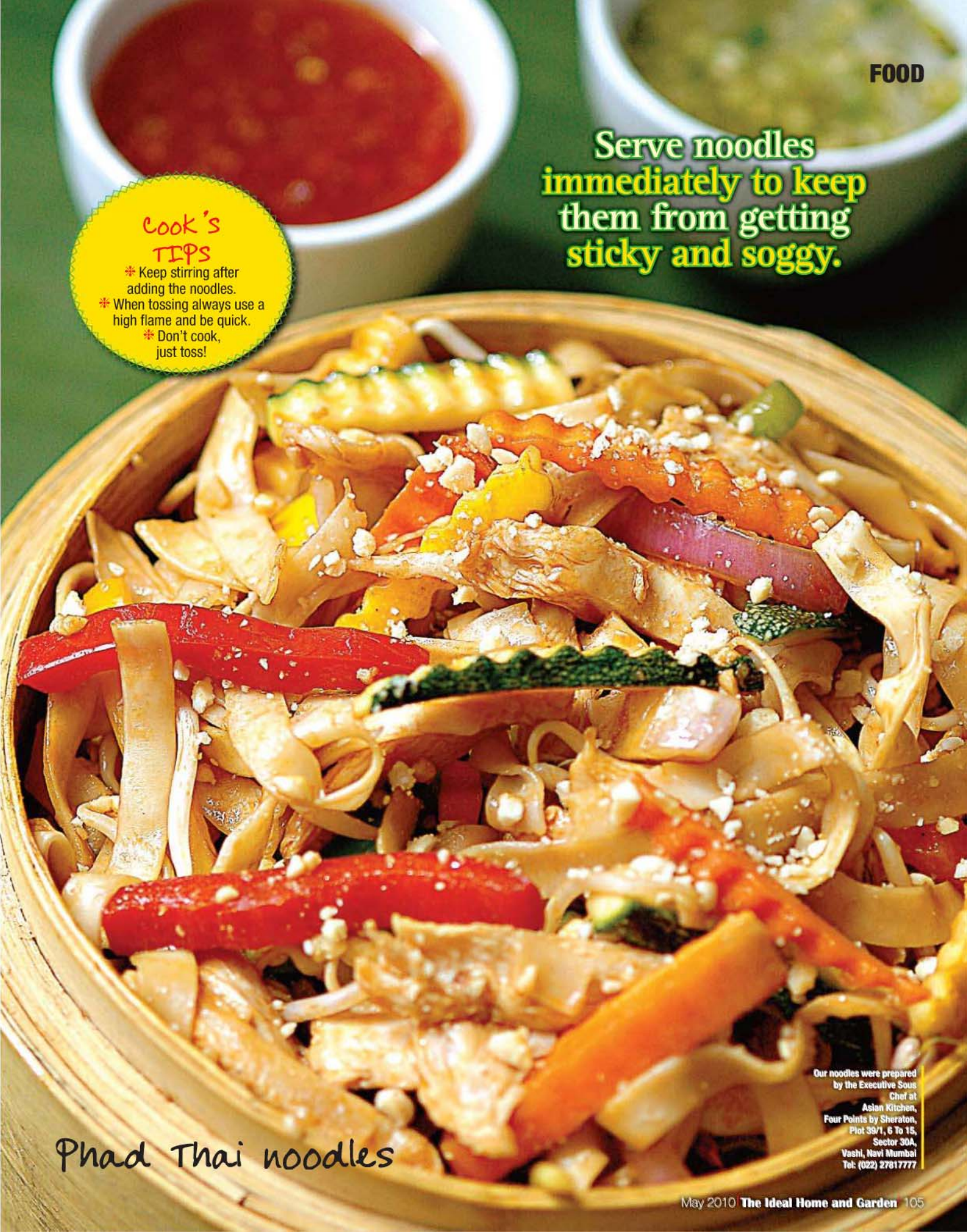
PHAD THAI NOODLES

YOU WILL NEED...

250gms flat noodles, 10gms thick onion julienne, 10gms carrot, 10gms capsicum, 10gms zucchini, 10gms cabbage, 10gms bean sprouts, 5gms chopped ginger, 5gms chopped onion, 5gms chopped garlic, 5gms chilli paste, 10gms tomato ketchup, 1tsp soya sauce, 1tsp madras curry powder, 2tbsp jaggery, 1tbsp tamarind pulp, 1tbsp crushed peanut, 100gms boiled chicken juliennes, 30ml Oil

METHOD

- Boil the noodles and keep aside
- Boil the chicken and cut into juliennes
- Heat oil in a wok (chinese fry pan) add chopped garlic, ginger and onion cook for 10 seconds
- Add chilli paste, tomato ketchup, Madras curry powder, jaggery, tomato pulp, soya sauce, salt, aromate powder, chicken and vegetable juliennes
- Add 100ml vegetables stock
- Adjust seasoning make into a medium gravy consistency
- Finally add noodles cook for 10 seconds
- Serve hot topped with crushed peanut and spring onion



Serve noodles immediately to keep them from getting sticky and soggy.

Cook's TIPS

- Keep stirring after adding the noodles.
- When tossing always use a high flame and be quick.
- Don't cook, just toss!

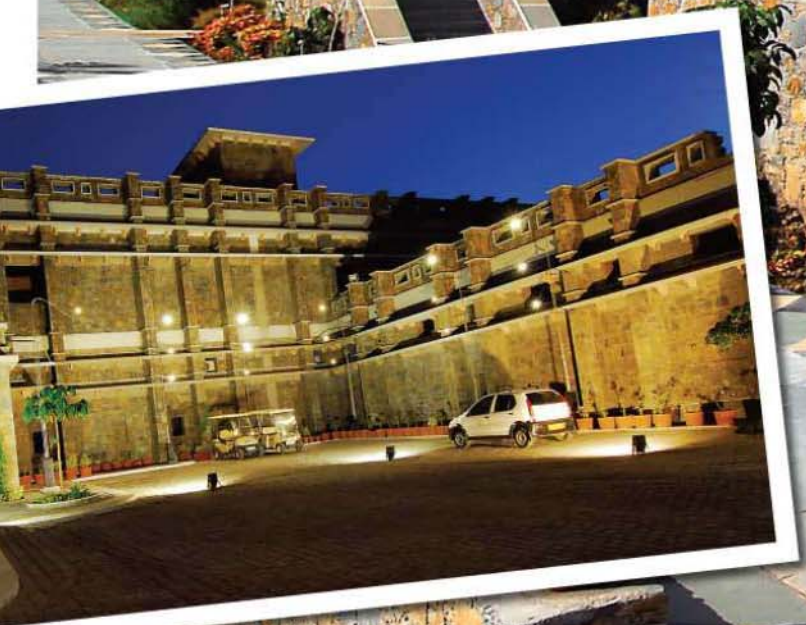
Phad Thai noodles

Our noodles were prepared by the Executive Sous Chef at Asian Kitchen, Four Points by Sheraton, Plot 39/1, 6 To 15, Sector 30A, Vashi, Navi Mumbai Tel: (022) 27817777

Rajasthan Royal

Discover the Lotus Resort in the heart of Udaipur where luxury and homely comfort go hand in hand

Impressions | Andrea Newton **Images** | Amit Bandhare



HOME AWAY FROM HOME



Listed as one of the most beautiful cities in the world, Udaipur has much to offer. But after all those hours of sightseeing under the harsh Rajasthan sun, we needed a nice cosy place to unwind and relax. Enter: The Lotus Resort, a fairly new resort, tucked away in the midst of the Aravalli ranges.

The gorgeous stone exteriors reflect the rich heritage of the city but it's the interiors of the resort that really captivated us, and left us with loads of colourful ideas to take back and incorporate in our urban homes.

The Lotus Resorts nationwide follow the 'Chill.Still.Tranquil' motto. True to their slogan, the Udaipur resort offers precisely that – a chance to unwind completely in a peaceful setting away from the city's crowd and noise.



The peacock themed wall art creates a stunning focal point in the room. Handpainted, this piece of work is something we'd love to try at home. The gold swirls add a nice royal touch

The use of luxurious organic fabrics like raw silk with exquisite detailing in silver zari can be see on the cushions and blinds. Each room has a respective theme which is followed through in all aspects of design.



There was never a dull moment at the resort thanks to the brightly-coloured furniture in our rooms. We enjoyed sipping on cocktails and watching the sunset from this brilliantly-coloured sofa. The delightful mix of pink and gold cushions resembled a traditional Mewari trousseau and we felt like royal kin lounging on them.

On arrival

You will be treated to a refreshing rose syrup and lemon spritzer which you can relish while you are being alotted a room. You are then driven to your room which sits in a two storey villa in a golf cart. You can choose which room you wish to stay in, whether lower level or upper and whether facing the resort or away from it.



The best rooms are the ones with the view of the hills, where you can catch sunset while sipping on herbal tea (which comes in three exotic flavours in your personalised tea/coffee goodie package).

Alluring, intricate inlaid work on the marble tables was very interesting especially when seen in sunlight – light bounced off the colours creating spectacular patterns.



Choose from a deluxe room, standard room or a suite. The deluxe rooms are designed with the rising sun as the main motif. The suites are created with a peacock theme using cooler shades of blue and green. The resort has 68 rooms to choose from. Each room mesmerising in its own way offers the comfort of a personal retreat against a sepia toned hill dotted backdrop.

The best part about the rooms were the large king-sized beds that made us feel like we were sleeping on a cloud! The large fluffy pillows were the perfect companion especially to drown away homesick moments.



The indirect lighting created a moody ambience in the room and lights up the pretty wall art as well. Perfect for a lazy day in bed while watching a film on the big LCD while sipping on a chilled beer.

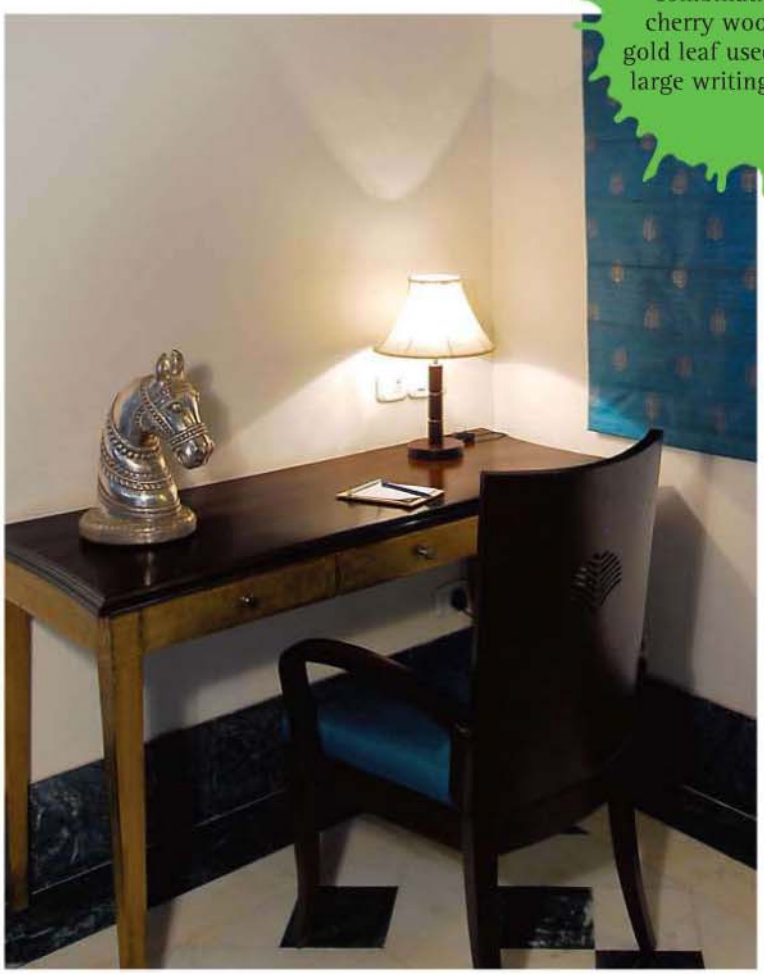


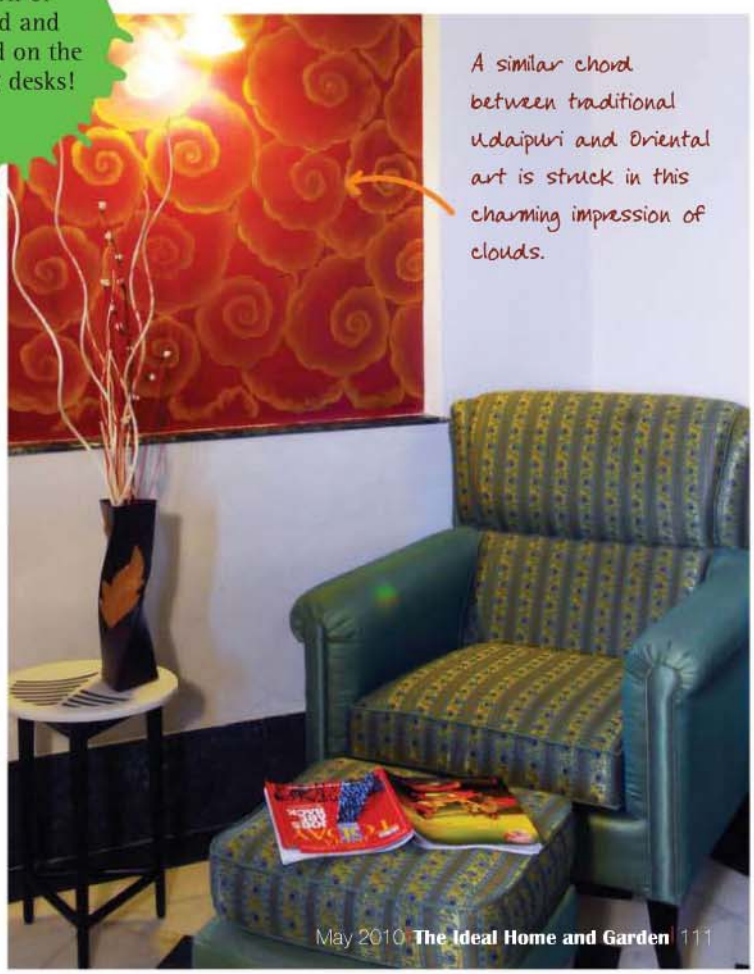
NEED TO KNOW

Each of the 68 rooms at the resort have the following amenities

- Air-conditioning
- Direct dial facility
- Dish TV with multiple choice of channels
- LCDs
- Electronic safe
- Modem connections
- Tea and coffee maker with a collection of choicest teas and coffee
- Curio & boutique Shops
- 24 hrs personalized room service
- Fully stocked mini-bar
- Wifi internet connectivity
- Personalised bathing kit
- Traditional jute slippers

We love the combination of cherry wood and gold leaf used on the large writing desks!

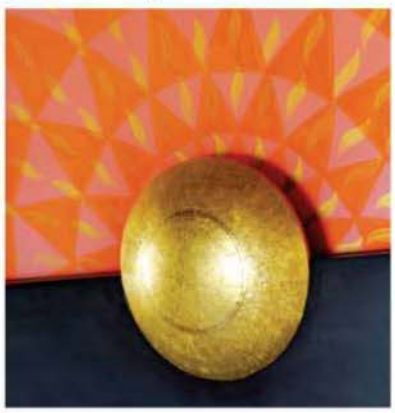




A similar chord between traditional Udaipuri and Oriental art is struck in this charming impression of clouds.



You can almost feel the warmth of the sun as you sink into your bed with the headboard radiating glowing golden swirls against an orange and pink background. The entire feel of this rooms is warmth and cozyness. Even the runner and cushions come in shades of orange and red. The gold work is carried through as seen on the walls in the form of motifs with tiny gold tiles and on the dull gold fabric for the blinds.



What struck us was the extensive use of saffron in the rooms. Kesariya or the colour saffron is popular amongst the Rajputs. It is considered auspicious colour and is used in abundance around the resort.

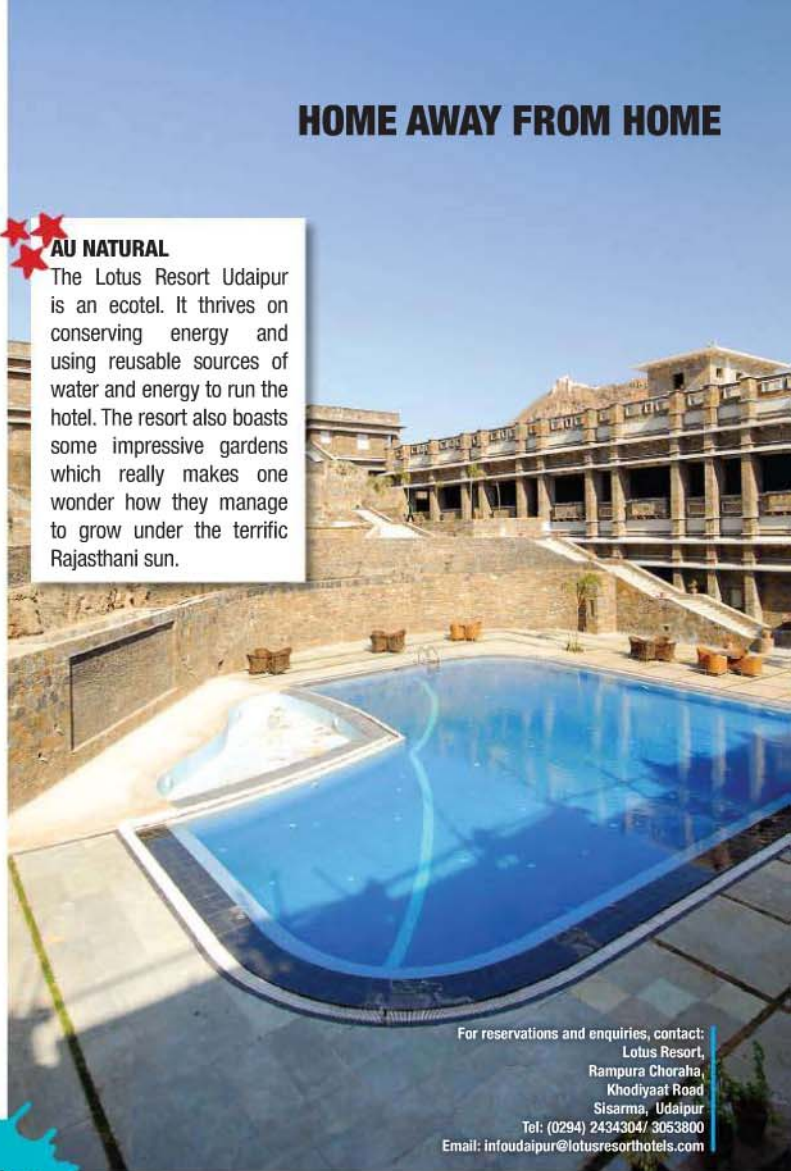


HOME AWAY FROM HOME



AU NATURAL

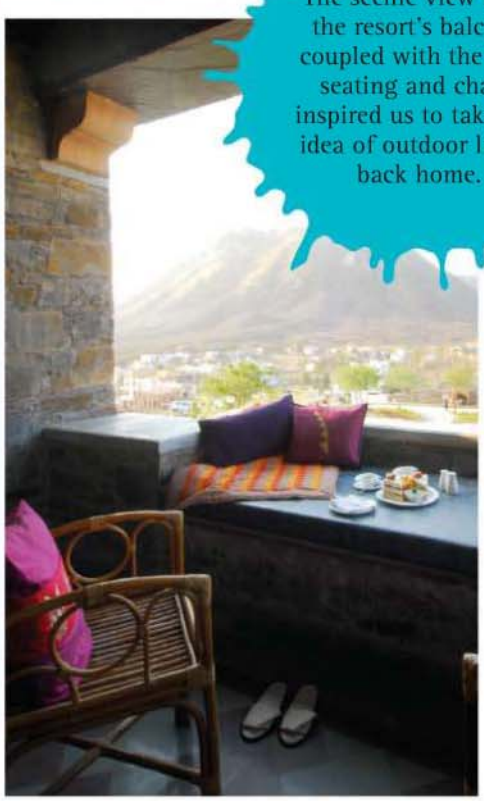
The Lotus Resort Udaipur is an ecotel. It thrives on conserving energy and using reusable sources of water and energy to run the hotel. The resort also boasts some impressive gardens which really makes one wonder how they manage to grow under the terrific Rajasthani sun.



For reservations and enquiries, contact:
Lotus Resort,
Rampura Choraha,
Khodiyaat Road
Sisarma, Udaipur
Tel: (0294) 2434304/ 3053800
Email: infoudaipur@lotusresorthotels.com

SPA-TACULAR

The mother of all relaxants- a day spent at the spa! After a well rested night and an organic breakfast, step down to the spa and get yourself a well deserved massage. The trained masseuers offer a variety of different treatments and will come up with a unique package that caters to the guest's individual needs. The harsh weather conditions in Udaipur can really dry one's skin out and the best way to moisturise is to get a deep tissue massage with herbal oils and essential ayurvedic concoctions at the spa. After an afternoon at the resort's spa you feel rejuvinated and pumped up for the rest of your holiday.



The scenic view from the resort's balcony coupled with the cosy seating and chairs inspired us to take this idea of outdoor living back home.



Royal Treatment

The king-sized bathtubs sure made our mornings! The combination of marble and red kota stone creates a setting reminiscent of the Mughal era. The gold fixures set off by the ambient lighting sit perfectly with the regal tone of the bathrooms.

Overhead showers and large Egyptian cotton towels are a few more indulgences at the Lotus Resort.



Dream **Home**

We take a look at Gera Developments' new residential project, Greensville Skyvillas, that's making heads turn and giving people a good reason to change address

Impressions | Benoy Sebastian **Images | Mahesh Reddy**



Gera's Greensville Skyvillas located at Kharadi, Pune are spacious and luxurious duplex homes that give you the prestige of villa living teamed with the convenience of an apartment.

THE DEVELOPERS

Gera Developments is a leading real estate development company with a strong presence in Pune and Goa. Over the last 40 years, the group has designed and developed premium properties across segments like residential apartments, commercial buildings and condominiums, to setting up and developing townships.



With the objective to deliver customer centric quality homes, Gera has to its credential concept homes, which includes child centric homes, intelleplexes and Punes most prestigious community designer garden villas. The group's core values of customer focus, innovation, quality in all work processes and trustworthiness has made them one of the most respected and emulated companies in the industry. Today, Gera has a string of future projects lined up in various segments such as commercial, retail and residential, with a project completion time line of six to twenty-four months. All their projects have four basic ingredients - customer focus, thoughtful planning, quality construction and premium facilities and amenities, thus making them a preferred choice and destination of every real estate customer.

These luxurious duplex homes bring you the prestige of villa living, with the convenience of an apartment.



Villa Features

- All units have two levels
- Private entrance pathway leading to a patio with sloping roof
- Entrance lobby with double height ceiling
- Backyard with picket fences
- Large sized family room on the upper level
- One bedroom at the lower level
- Walk-in wardrobes
- Kitchen with utility room
- Attached servants room with separate entrance

Each villa comes with an open garden area marked with white picket fences... a homely touch, wouldn't you say?

THE VILLAS

Think of a villa and chances are youll think of luxury. Think of an apartment and you would think of convenience. Geras Greensville Skyvillas gives you the best of both.

Each skyvilla includes the following villa inspirations:

- A private passage leading to an entrance patio with a sloping roof
- Double-height ceiling in the living room
- A backyard with white picket-fences
- Large windows in the guest and master bedrooms
- One bedroom on the lower level
- An utility room for every kitchen
- Servant room with separate entrance

The entrance makes the first impression. Your skyvilla has a private passage, which leads up to your own entrance patio with a sloping roof. A great way to make that lasting first impression. With a choice of three and four bedroom skyvillas, ranging from 1,828 sqft to 2,715 sqft, you have the liberty to pick the one that suits your needs the best. Each tower also consists of a basement parking facility, a lobby and three elevators. Every villa will be provided with a backyard. Just imagine being on the seventh floor with your own backyard with white picket-fences, which give your SkyVilla that exclusive private feel. With SkyVilla you get the advantage of a two-level villa. In fact, every villa has an ornate staircase with a double-height ceiling for that palatial feel. This is a luxury you truly deserve.

Every villa has an ornate staircase with a double-height ceiling for that palatial effect.

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

The Skyvillas offer comfort and convenience that surpasses expectations. The project has been planned with main driveways leading to secondary driveways. The stilts in the parking are hidden from the main driveways. The garden level units have direct access from the podium.

Pavilion overlooking the landscaping has:

- Lounge
- Party area
- Table-tennis tables
- Pool tables
- Children's playground
- Security control room with intercom
- Separate parking for visitors
- Generator back-up for common areas
- Walking track
- Landscaped pathways
- Entrance lobbies
- Motion sensor lights in passages







GREAT INTERIORS

Special attention has been given to details like wall finishes and accent corners.

PROJECT AMENITIES

The project amenities include:

- 7,000 sqft state-of-the-art club house with a party hall, bar counter, pantry, lounge area
- Fully equipped gym with changing rooms and shower areas
- 1,500 sqft swimming pool with a heated plunge pool, jacuzzi and kiddies pool
- Hotel style entrance lobby for each building
- Double bay basement parking for every unit
- Ample visitors parking
- Grand entrance gate with water features

You will love the private passage leading to the entrance patio with a sloping roof.



Gera's warranty

As leaders in the industry, with nearly 40 years of experience, Gera has established a new benchmark in quality and service: The Gera warranty, offered for the very first time in India. The warranty reaffirms Gera's commitment to customer satisfaction and is a testimony of the customers faith in their construction work, quality, materials and designs. Gera believes in what it does and stands by its work. By offering a five year warranty to its customers, Gera ensures that the entire property stays in premium condition for years to come.

The Gera warranty includes:

- Preventive maintenance
- Repairs

LOCATION

Gera's Skyvillas is located at Kharadi, Pune, a ten minute drive from The Taj Blue Diamond, Koregaon Park. It is easily accessible from the Pune-Nagar Road and even the Hadapasar-Mundhwa bypass road. The suburb of Kharadi is within the Pune Municipal Corporation limits and is situated just beyond Kalyani Nagar and Viman Nagar on Pune-Nagar Road. Kharadi has easy access to prominent shopping areas, educational institutions, hospitals, recreational facilities, Pune airport, railway station and M.G. Road (Camp). With a 4 million sqft SEZ thats coming up, this developing suburb is experiencing a whole lot of buzz and excitement. Pune railway station is at a distance of about 13 kilometers, and the Pune international airport is at a distance of about six kilometers.

CONTACT
Oberoi Constructions
Commerz, 3rd Floor
International Business Park
Oberoi Garden City
Off Western Express Highway
Goregaon (East), Mumbai 400063
Tel: (022) 66773333 (Corporate Office)
Tel: (022) 28213377 (Site Office)



Hardwood floors make a bold style statement in all the sky villas.

Three's **Company**

Step inside a snazzy pad created for a family of three

Impressions | Benoy Sebastian Images | Interior Consultant Ketan Sheth



DINING AND SEATING
The dining area has been cleverly demarcated from the living area with SS Strings. A modern styled dining table made of veneer and glass stands out as the accent in the area. Wooden rafters are provided on the ceiling with studs. The crockery unit is done up in silver lamination with glass panelling on the backside. The designer has made sure there is free moving area around the dining zone.

This 1,400sqft home in Juhu, Mumbai, is a three bedroom-hall-kitchen apartment, houses three occupants. The layout and the planning of the house remains simple with most comforts of a modern home included in the design plan by designer Ketan Sheth.

He has referred to vaastuto set the design right at its inception. As the occupants of the house are deeply religious and believe in living according to positive directions, Ketan made changes to the pooja room, on the left of the master bedroom. The other changes included the kitchen being sandwiched between the master bedroom on the left and the son's bedroom on the right. Due to these changes, the utility room was shifted to the far right of the living room.

THE CHALLENGES

As the owners had made what they wanted very clear, there wasn't much of a problem at the execution stage. "As the client gave us a free hand with the design, we didnt encounter any major problems during the planning stages. In fact, the entire family chipped in with their own ideas at different stages of planning and designing. That apart, it was complete fun doing up the entire house since the area of the house is reasonably large as compared to other city homes."





THE BEDROOMS
The look is simple for the master bedroom. With the overall background white, furniture is in a combination of dark brown veneer. Beige leather finish is used on the door and wardrobe panelling to uplift the look and lend the bedroom warmth. The three niches provided make for an interesting panel with soft lighting inside for accessories. The son's bedroom has been given a modern look keeping in mind the needs and requirements of todays youth.



THE BRIEF
The owners were very particular about the design, says Ketan. After several meetings, discussions and brain-storming sessions, the family clearly spelt out their dream home to the designer. "Initially I was surprised when the family told me that they wanted their home to be warm and simple, yet modern. They also wanted a rich feel to the interiors." It was only while working on the project that Ketan realised what they really wanted – 'simplistic' living.

For his son's room, the father wanted an exceptionally modern look. The son himself chipped in with his ideas. Based on that Ketan's team created a panelling with L.E.D. lighting for a futuristic ambience.



THE LIVING AREA

The living room is spacious with cream being the base colour. The flooring is done in Australian white marble, making the room look larger than it is. To add a touch of drama to an otherwise simple setting, Ketan created an accent wall behind the sofa with a mica-finished wallpaper. The seating area has been furnished in brown, in contrast with the shades of cream – this a warm look to the room. A traditional reversible swing – which is custom-made – is placed in one corner of the room. "A lot of deliberations and discussions went into the placement of the swing, and ultimately, everyone aggreed on the current place." Functional, ambient lighting is provided all over for a cozy and comfortable feel.

THE KITCHEN

Giving shape to the kitchen area was a bit of a challenge for the designers. Ketan and his team had to apply a little



THE BATHROOM
The bathroom is an extension of the bedroom. The designers have carried forward the same warm look for the bathrooms by using travetino and black marquino marble in combination for flooring and the wall.









thought into creating this space. Ketan says, We didn't have the option of breaking the wall or altering the kitchen. Therefore he says that the narrow kitchen is planned in such a way that it has platforms on either side of it. One platform is for cooking, which measures 10'-10' * 2'-2' with SK Blue finish granite in conjunction with a small sliding tea-coffee table, which measures 2'-2 * 1'-6' with a laminate finish. The second platform is for serving purpose. It measures 2' * 9' with a full height modular tall unit in one corner. The cabinets that are below are divided with grey and silver laminate. The overhead profile storage has a chimney and hub in the center. The serving platform also has an overhead unit. Ketan is pleased with the design that he planned for the kitchen. Not much space, but still plenty enough for maneuvering. He says, We have used more of white colour for the flooring so as to provide maximum space for movement and a wider look for the kitchen.

THE BATHROOM

The bathroom is an extension of the bedroom. The designers have carried forward the same warm look for the bathrooms by using travetino and black marquino marble in combination for flooring and the wall. The long mirror above the counter adds depth to the bathroom. Soft lighting is used in the background, thereby adding a touch of glow to the bathroom.

LIGHTING AND COLOUR COORDINATION

In most of the projects designed by Ketan, lighting has been an integral part of the interiors. In his own words, Lighting provides a very warm and soothing atmosphere and also enhances the overall look. Ketan personally prefers L.E.D. cold light in blue, which soothes the atmosphere, and the yellow halogen lights that gives a warm look to any room in any corner of the house.



We took a peak into an enchanting home that made us want to stay back in Goa just to live the dream

Impressions | Andrea Newton
Images | Karen Dias

Villa Goa!

Neelam Johar

With her enthusiastic approach to life and her fervour for design she has put her soul into setting up her home in Asagaon, Goa.



Perched on a hill, nestled in a flowing landscape of lush flora, hidden away from the hustle of the city, is the Johar residence. Home to Neelam Johar and her son, Jehan, who manages the popular restaurant/ club, Blue Frog, we found their home stood out among the other we saw in its vicinity.



The family loves to entertain in this beautiful open-air set-up. Tiny fairy lights bring the area alive at night, lending it a mystical air.

Located minutes away from some of the best beaches in North Goa, the Johar residence spread over two acres of lush forest is certainly the perfect getaway home. In 1999 when Neelam first set her eyes on the land on which the house stands, she knew that it was where she would build her dream home. At the time though the land was covered with thick foliage and was as good as being in the jungle. It struck her as the ideal place to create a haven for her family and she set out to find the best architect to do the job.



WINDOW TO THE WORLD. Large windows make the house look bright and keep it cool.

The reason behind the house being spread over different patios and levels is because Neelam made sure not a single tree was cut during the construction! She made sure the builders worked their way around all the trees and built the rooms in a way that made it seem as though the trees were placed in their spots for decorative purposes.

The idea behind having the open air dining area was because Neelam loves to entertain and during season time in Goa the weather is simply beautiful outdoors. And she has friends who travel from all over the world to India, and most of them make sure they stop at the Villa Lakshmira. Therefore while building the house she envisioned a warm, inviting area to eat with friends and family overlooking the trees covered in a blanket of stars. In the night the twinkling fairylights that she has so delicately placed on the looming tree shine like fireflies and light up the area.



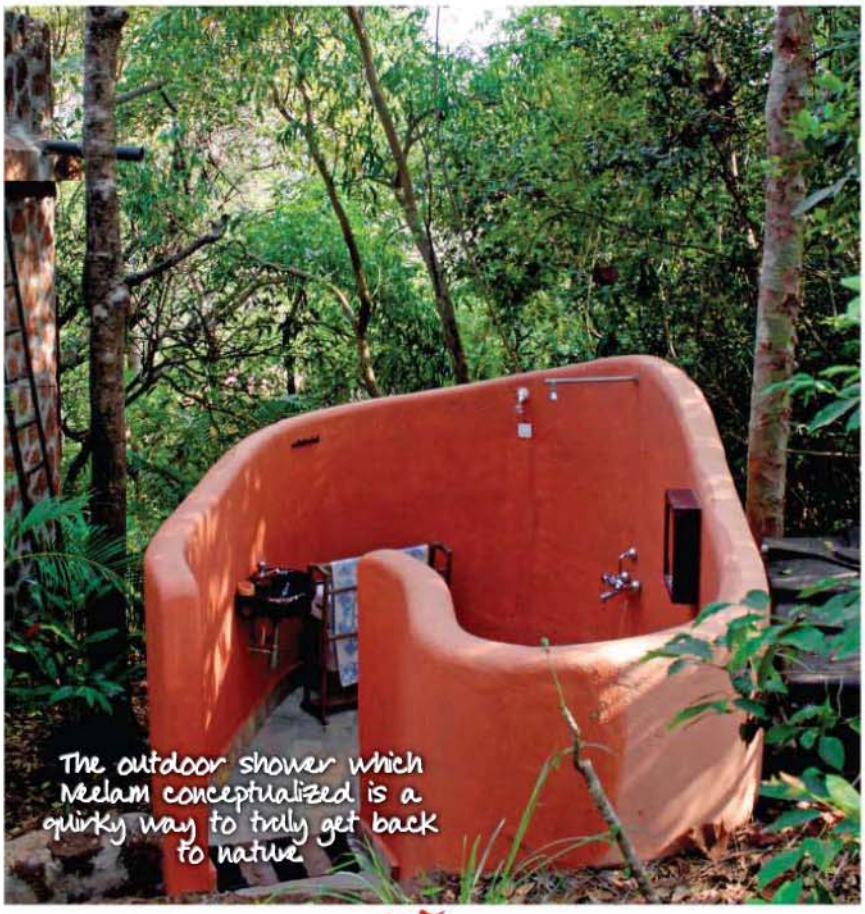
Neelam's collection of fridge magnets resembles a mini art gallery boasting famous paintings collected from museums around the world.

The house has a castle-like feel to it, especially when you walk down the winding staircases and through the many corridors.

The roof of the house has an interesting story behind it. Quite like everything else in the house! Once the house was ready, the roof still had to be done. Neelam spent a long time figuring out what exactly she would like to see on the top of the house. Terracota tiles are quiet a common site and she first thought of using them. But then later upon realizing that the surface of the roof is uneven and that would pose a problem for cutting the tiles she had to rethink her options. After many nights of pondering, she came up with a brilliant idea. She painted out a watercolour sample of an earthy sunset shade and sent it to a tile manufacturer in Gujarat.

She received samples within a few weeks, was happy with what she saw and the deal was done. The roof is now covered in a lovely mosaic of those burnt sienna tiles. It's pretty and so simple yet oozes great amounts of style. She smiles and says that everyone who's ever been to the house has fallen in love with the roof.

Right from the woodwork to the small curios, Neelam has paid special attention to making sure that she has put her energy into personalising the look and feel of the house. The doors in the house were all sourced from Bombay. Not a big fan of using brand new wood for doors and windows, she specially chose the anitque doors and windows made from old wood from vintage furniture stores.



The outdoor shower which Neelam conceptualized is a quirky way to truly get back to nature



The infinity pool is one of Neelam's favourite spots in the house

A STEP AHEAD

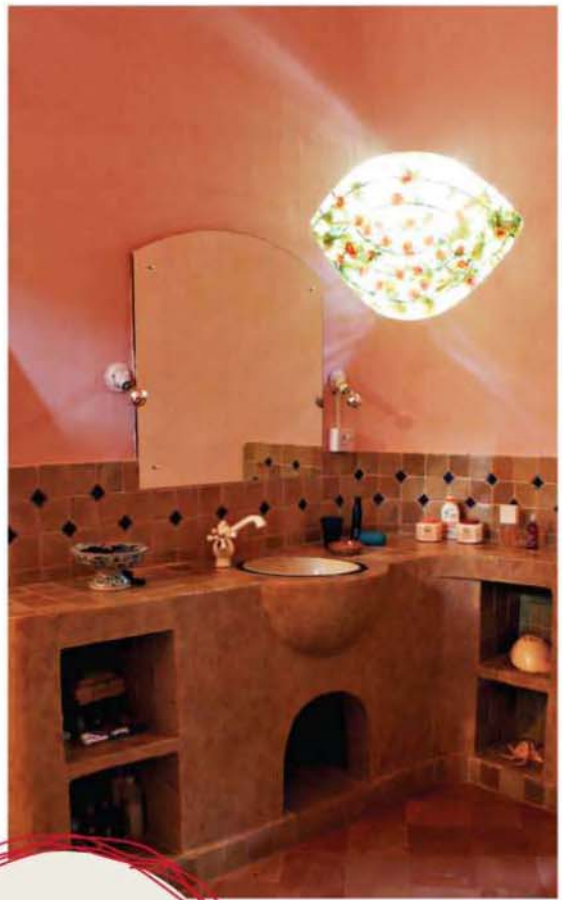
A walk into the courtyard reveals a breathtaking infinity pool surrounded by a sundeck. The pool area is covered in lush green grass and tress. Birds perched on the deck chairs, cool lemonade in tall glasses and a huge rubber float make the perfect accessories for a cool splash in the pool on a summer day. And if your not upto taking a dip but yet feel like a bit of cooling down, there's an outdoor shower to help one do so!Neelam says the idea behind the outdoor shower was taken from her past visits to Goa. She would always stay at guesthouses that had dingy bathing spaces. So she would create her own outdoor bathing space with bamboo, palms and little statuettes. So it was inevitable that the concept would be incorporated into the house. The best part about the outdoor shower is that since there are no houses in the area surrounding the house, there is complete privacy and the only guests one can find are the cheeky monkeys who may stare while someone's taking a bath!

While we were there, there was some construction going on a few metres away from the house. We found a studio in the middle stages of being built. Bright and colourful it looks like a fun place to create some tunes. Jehan and her conceptualised the idea because they had a lot of their musician friends coming over to stay at the house. So what better way to work than while at play? The recording studio will be up and running by May of this year.

The marble floors are beautiful and one cannot help but admire the uniqueness in their design. The tiles used for the floor were actually spotted in a friends' garden and Neelam asked for a sample of that particular stone because she wanted it for her home the minute she laid eyes on it. It was hard for her to track the manufacturers of that particular marble. She travelled up and down north Bombay with the sample in search for the stone. And after a week of hunting she was successful. The gorgeous slabs of marble now adorn her floor and she couldn't be happier with her decision to use them.

The living room is a quaint space will soft interiors. The large windows allow plenty of sunlight to drench the entire room making it look larger than it is. The interiors are tasteful and simple. Sepia photographs, paintings and brass artefacts are hung on the walls. The fabrics on the sofa's are in bright colours reflecting the vibe of the house and its zesty owners.

The kitchen stands adjacent to the hall. It is a nice cosy little space where Neelam conjures up some delicious food and some deadly Vodka martinis. A very quirky and interesting feature of the kitchen that really caught our eye was the display of magnetic art on her fridge. Labelled as her mini art gallery, the front door of the fridge is dotted with mini-replicas of world famous paintings that she has been collecting over the years. A small Mona Lisa looks wisely as Neelam explains where each one has been procured from. The set up is simply charming.



The house is made up of three bedrooms all of which have attached bathrooms. Each room is decorated in a style of its own and each one has its own private space seperate from the rest of the house. There are plenty of open spaces that have been manicured into gardens and the rooms all have nice green areas surrounding them. The family's strong spiritual side shines through as little Buddhist accents decorate the rooms. The antique Portugese beds are beautiful and each room's interiors are different from the other. The bathrooms are huge. Some may even be bigger than a studio apartment in Mumbai!

ENTERTAINING GUESTS

The guest bedroom is simply put together, with minimal and comfortably functional furniture to make guests feel at home.



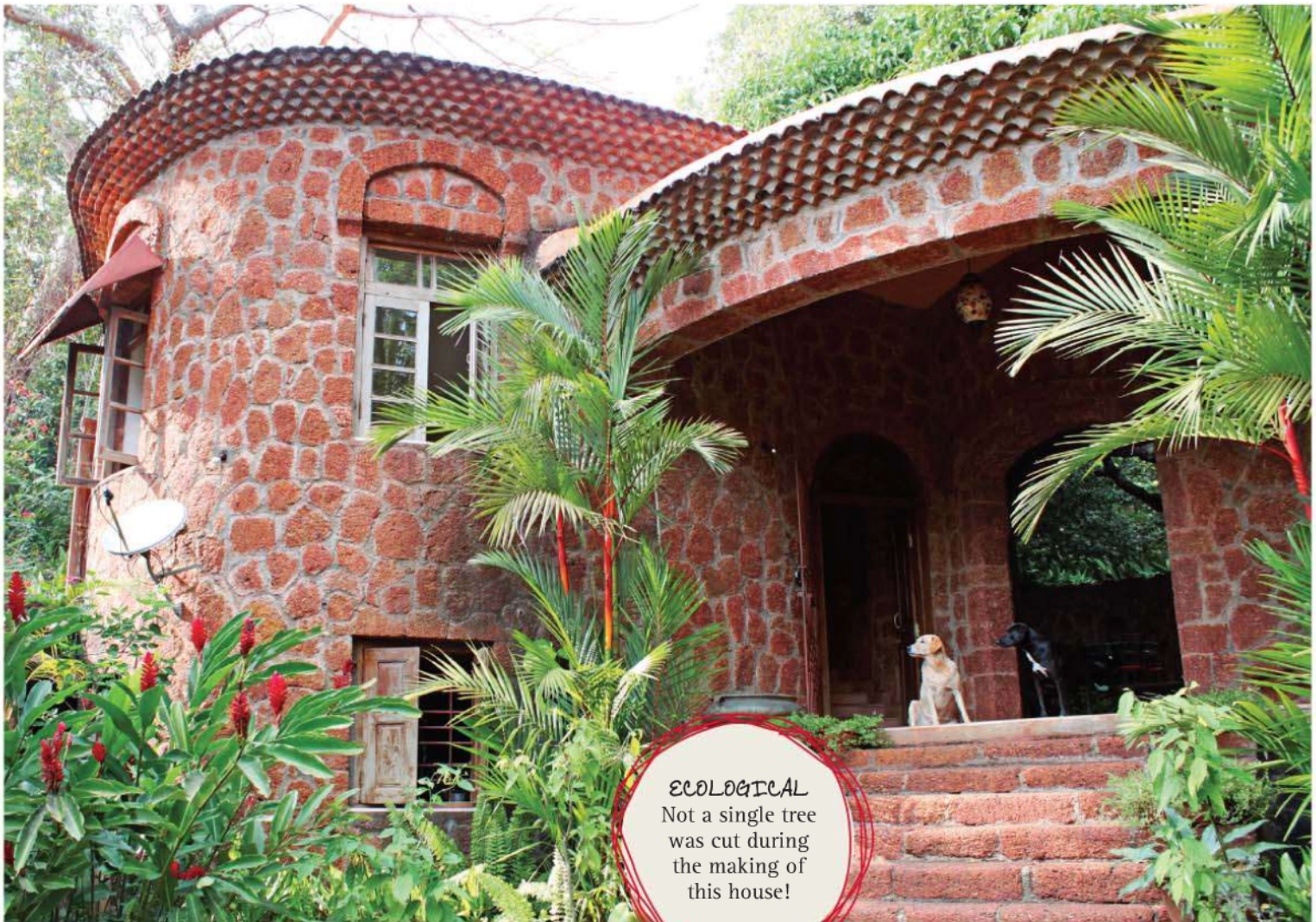


NATURE'S LAW

The house was built using the local red laterite stones and the walls of the house are about a foot thick. This feature teamed with the high ceilings and large windows make the interior temperature a few degress cooler than the temperature outdoors. The stone finish has a great castle-like appearance and it makes one feel like you were walking around your very own kingdom. A great feature of the house is that it is not built in one block. The rooms are located on different levels and you have to cross the courtyard which doubles as the dining room) to reach the other rooms.

The theme behind the architecture of the house was to keep it natural so that it would merge well with it's natural surroundings. The house took a year to build and is shaped in a semi-circle. The driveway leading to the house was actually constructed by relocating mud from one side of the house and place it in front of the house in a circular shape to create the two-way driveway which is flanked by tall trees and gorgeous flowers.

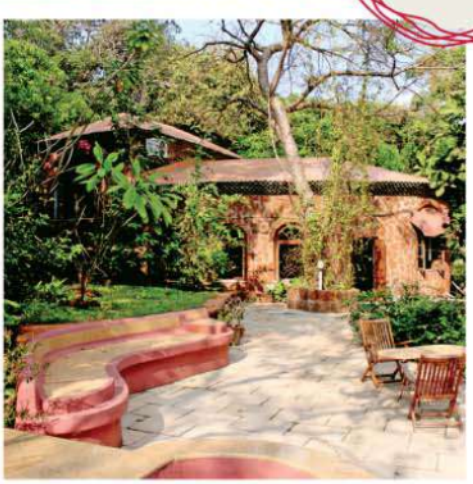
The entrance to the house is as inviting and warm as the rest of its interiors. During the rains, the stone walls turn a brighter shade of red.



ECOLOGICAL
Not a single tree was cut during the making of this house!

All in all, the entire property is special. The Johar's rent part of the house out to friends and guests when they require it. It is Jehan's home when he is taking a break from the hectic buzz of the city and Neelam spends most of her time here in between travelling. She is constantly looking for new ideas to add to the house and bring out the wonderful features of the property.

To know more, check, www.lakshmira.com





All About...



In this column, our Kitchen Hands, Anaheeta Patell gets down to the nitty gritty lying under the surface of most ordinary household thingummies.

Ever wonder why everything tastes exotic and exudes delicious aromas when you're dining out? The secret is in the seasoning. We take a trip down to Scarborough Fair and bring you parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme…

Herbs are nature's little surprise packages, flavourful and super healthy. And, a little goes a long way! For cuisine with character, there's nothing quite like the bite of herbs to bring distinctive appeal to foods. From the Mediterranean flair of oregano to the piney aroma of rosemary, their versatility is unsurpassed. The usage of herbs and spices dates back, prior to recorded history. Early logs reveal a mixture of medicinal and magical uses for herbs. They have also been in use to mask unpleasant household odours. The use of culinary herbs is featured in one of the first recorded cookbooks from the first century epicure, Apicius. In England (1699), John Evelyn wrote Acetaria - A Discourse of Sallets which went into great detail of 73 salad herbs and their uses! Here we bring you the very basic facts that we think you should know about important fresh, garden herbs.



Herbs should be at room temperature when used in cold dishes. When you're preparing for a dish that requires a lengthy cooking period, use a small, tied bunch of fresh herb sprigs. This bundle, the bouquet garni, customarily contains parsley, bay leaf and thyme.



DRIED HERBS...

...are more concentrated than fresh, while powdered herbs have a greater intensity than crumbled. Each herb varies but a good rule of thumb is: A fourth of a teaspoon of powdered herb is comparable to three-fourths to one teaspoon crumbled, or the equivalent of two to four teaspoonfuls fresh.

Usually extensive heat reduces the flavour of herbs – add fresh herbs to soups and stews about 15 minutes before completion of the cooking time. For refrigerated foods, fresh herbs should be added several hours or overnight, before using. Fresh basil being the only exception – it tastes bitter if included in a salad dressing overnight or longer.

HARVESTING AND STORING

The optimum time to harvest herbs is in the morning, after the dew has evaporated and prior to the sun warming their leaves. Be very gentle while handling them so you don't end up bruising or injuring the leaves and stems. The distinctive oils that give herbs their aroma and flavour are volatile and can be destroyed if ill-treated. Select just enough herbs to be used, dried or frozen, the same day.

If you must store them for a few hours, keep them in the refrigerator in a perforated plastic bag so they can breathe. When you are ready to use them, wash the herbs gently under cool – not cold – water, and pat dry between paper towels. Freezing fresh herbs is an easy way to store them longer. Clean the herbs delicately: Blot dry, and remove leaves from the stalks. You can freeze them whole or chopped, packing into freezer-safe bags or airtight containers. Chopped herbs that are to be used in soups or stews can be spooned into an ice cube tray, covered with water, and frozen. When you are ready to use the herbs, just remove what you need from the tray and add to the pot.

When using fresh herbs, chop the leaves fine to release maximum oil and flavour.



WELL HERBED

Make herbal butters and cream cheeses by mixing a tablespoon of finely chopped fresh herbs with half a cup of margarine/ butter/ cottage cheese/ low fat yogurt or cream cheese. Set aside for at least an hour to let the flavours seep in. Taste on a plain cracker before serving.



Try not to mix two strong herbs. Blend a stronger one with another milder flavour to complement both, the herbs and the food.

Keeps the Doctor Away…

Throughout history, from the Bible, Koran, Siddhar poems of Tamils, Vedas and other old texts, the medicinal benefits of herbs are quoted. Herbs have long been used as the basis of Ayurvedic and traditional Chinese medicines, with usage dating as far back as the first century. They say the extract of St. John's-Wort or kava-kava can be used to relieve depression and stress. One herb-like substance, called shilajit, may actually help lower blood glucose levels. Ginger root is known to aid digestion, reduce nausea or morning sickness, while its violet leaves and flowers are used to clear toxins and help with respiratory ailments.

Photograph: Amit Bhandare

All About...



Herbal combinations can also be minced and added to a meal immediately upon completion of cooking and as a garnish before serving. This French practice is referred to as fines herbes. It consists of a blend of chopped fresh chervil, parsley, tarragon and chives and is good for mildly flavoured dishes.

The organic fresh herbs were brought to you by Offerings – Farms and Natural Foods and Green Tokri. While our dried herb blends were sourced from Herbs and Spices.

TYPES OF HERBS

1. With a totally unique spicy green taste, DILL is available in weed and seed, both fresh and dried. Dill weed works wonders in soups, omelets, seafood dishes, potato salads and steamed vegetables. Add whole seed to breads, pickles, cabbage, stews, rice and cooked root vegetables. Ground seed can flavour butter, mayonnaise and mustard. The leaves go well with fish, cream cheese and cucumber.
2. OREGANO is a hardy member of the mint family that has been used for flavouring fish, meat and sauces since ancient times. Typically it's used to season Mexican, Italian, Greek and Spanish recipes.
3. GARLIC chives are used in oriental cooking and are a great proxy for garlic salts and powdered garlic.
4. SAGE with its musty yet smoky aroma enhances pork, lamb, meats, and sausages. Rub sage, cracked pepper and garlic into pork tenderloin or chops before cooking. Chopped leaves make for a good seasoning in salads, pickles and cheese.
5. CHIVES, chopped up, lift many foods above the ordinary. Sprinkle them on soups, salads, chicken, potatoes, cooked vegetables and egg dishes. Blend chopped chives with butter or cream cheese, yogurt sauces and baked potatoes. Add toward the end of cooking or as a garnish.
6. CURRY LEAVES are used extensively in South Indian cooking, adding a very distinct flavour and aroma that is hard to replicate.
7. A profusely fragrant tropical citrus, KAFFIR LIME is indispensable in Thai cooking and cannot be substituted. The valued parts are the leaves and the peel or zest of the limes. Both leaves and peel are available frozen or dried. Along with lemon grass and galangal, kaffir lime is a foundation ingredient of most Thai curries, giving them a complexity of flavour.
8. Stir into pasta sauce or sprinkle it on your eggs. ITALIAN SEASONING brings a sunny Mediterranean flavour to all kinds of dishes. This herb blend typically consists of dried basil, oregano, thyme, rosemary, sage, marjoram and savory. Representing the traditional seasonings of Italian cuisine, this flavour-booster has become a kitchen classic for its versatility.
9. 10. and 11. BASIL is a popular culinary herb. It's used extensively in Thai and Mediterranean cuisine to pep up curries, sauces, pizzas, salads and pastas. It's also the main ingredient of pesto sauce. Basil can be used either fresh or dried. The fresh leaf has a sweet, clove like spiciness and pairs well with tomato and garlic. (From left to right: Three variants of basil – sweet basil, Thai basil and Greek basil.)
12. Peppermint, spearmint, apple mint, lemon mint and even chocolate mint are all variants of the herb MINT. A key ingredient in making a refreshing mojito, it's great for seasoning lamb, vegetable such as carrots, bell pepper, and tomatoes, in yogurt dressings and breads. In the Middle East you'll find it in salads, tabouli and marinated vegetables. Steeped in tea it's known for its medicinal properties in different parts of the globe. Also delightful with chocolate or lemon based desserts.
13. CORIANDER, besides being used extensively in Indian curries, as a garnish





and in spice mixes, is also used to enliven Mexican, South American, Thai and Vietnamese cuisines. Tacos, salsas, soups, stews, chicken, rice, salads and tomato based sauces can all be embellished with fresh coriander. The seeds are used in Indian, Middle Eastern, Southern Asian and Latin American cuisines.

14. LEMONGRASS is widely used as an herb in Asian (particularly Vietnamese, Khmer, Thai, Lao, Malaysian, Indonesian, Philippine, Sri Lankan) and Caribbean cooking. It has a citrus taste and can be dried and powdered, or used fresh. Locally you are likely to recognise this herb as an infusion in your cup of tea.
15. While FENUGREEK seeds are used as a spice in curries, pickles and chutneys, the young leaves are a salad herb and can make a delicious salad when mixed with other greens particularly watercress. The fresh or dried leaves are used to zing up other dishes. The dried leaves (kasuri methi) have a bitter taste and a strong characteristic smell.
16. Not just a great taster, CELERY is packed with vitamins and minerals. Celery contrasts well with apples and nuts and is a key ingredient in a Waldorf and other cold-slaw style salads. Dried celery is used for garnishing soups and tuna or chicken salad sandwiches. The seeds are added to pickle recipes and soups.
17. Fresh MARJORAM goes really well with salads and mild flavoured foods, though its taste and pungency is enhanced when dried. This herb has a mild, sweet flavour with perhaps a hint of balsam, similar to oregano, to whom it is closely related. It's said to be 'the meat herb' but it compliments all foods except sweets.
18. BAY LEAF is available fresh, dried, whole or ground dried leaves. It's probably the one herb that most cooks prefer using dried than fresh. Add a bay leaf or two to marinades, stocks, pâtés, stews, stuffings and curries. Store with rice in a tight fitting jar and the leaf will impart its flavor to the rice when cooked.
19. ROSEMARY'S aromatic zest blends well with garlic and thyme to season lamb roasts, meat stews, and marinades. The herb also livens up lighter fish and poultry dishes, tomato sauces and vegetables such as steamed red potatoes, peas, zucchini and squash. Rosemary has a tea like aroma and a piney flavour. Crush leaves by hand or with a mortar and pestle before using.
20. THYME is used in a wide variety of cuisine, but is closely associated with the French. Fresh garden thyme has thin greyish green leaves, a subtle lemon yet minty aroma and is the most flavoursome used whole, with the stem. Thyme is often used in soups and sauces, with meat, poultry or fish. It goes well with lamb and veal as well as in eggs and croquettes.
21. PARSLEY, at a pinch, adds colour and texture to any recipe. Generally described as being mild, the aroma and taste of parsley are very distinctive. It combines well with other herbs like basil, bay leaves, chives, dill weed, garlic, mint, oregano and thyme. Flat leaf or italian parsley is used primarily in cooking because of its robust essence while curly parsley works well as a garnish.

There are no hard and fast rules when cooking with fresh herbs, start to experiment using small amounts to see what suits your palate.





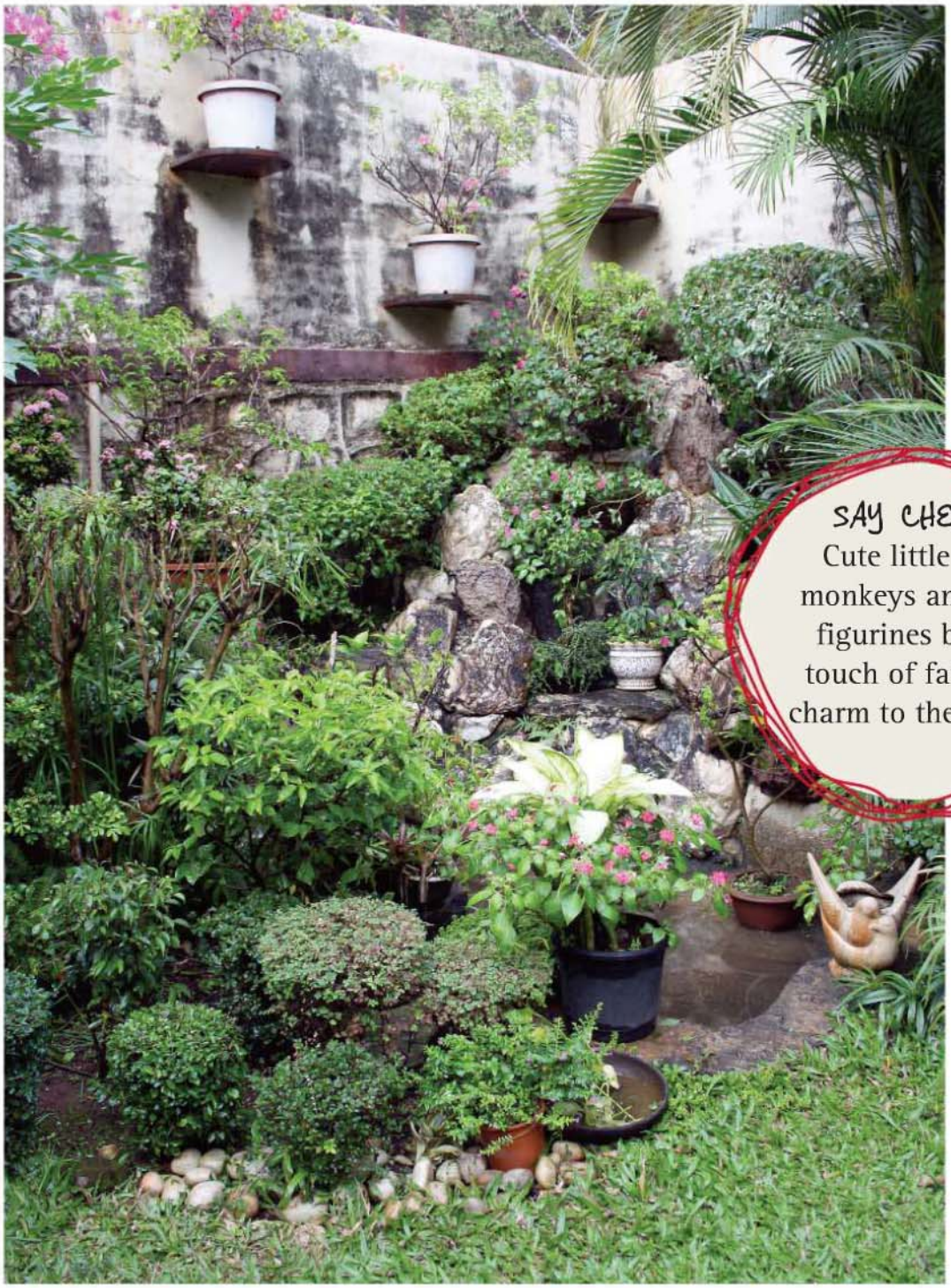
Secret Garden

Whimsical and sprinkled with fantasy, this garden is anything but ordinary

Impressions I Aruna Rathod
Images I R. Rushabh

Could you imagine that plants could be grown in your child's discarded gumboots? Anuradha Pillay did that and beautifully too. "Both my daughters are now grown up and I just loved the red gumboots they wore, so I decided to grow plants in them!" The gumboots and the plants are doing very well given the fact that they are 37 years old.

Anuradha lives in a quaint bungalow with her garden all around the house. A cute red and black letter box and the tiled roof lends a traditional touch to the house, while the garden gives it a tropical feel. Anuradha tended to her plants only once her duties to her family and home were done, ever since she got married. She loves her plants, takes good care of them and speaks very passionately about them.





SAY CHEESE!
Cute little stone monkeys and other figurines bring a touch of fairy-tale charm to the garden.

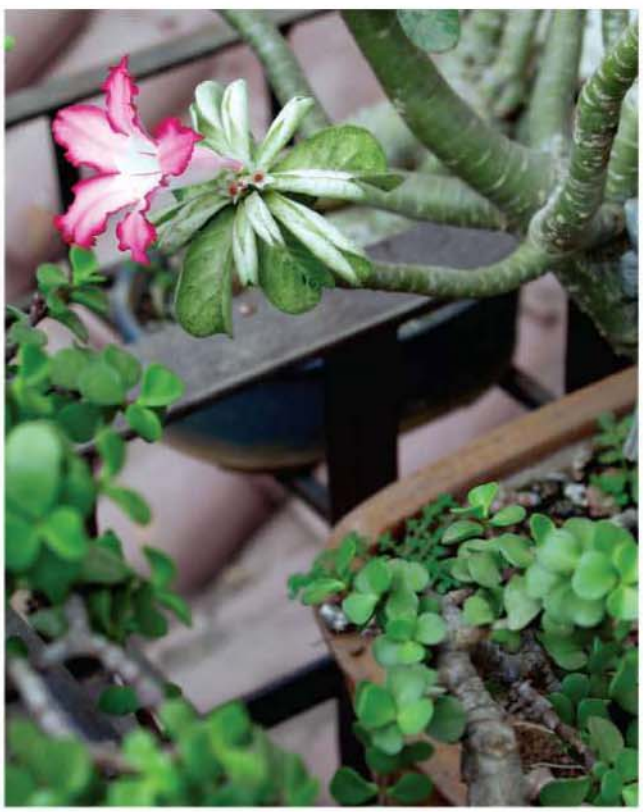


She even remembers where she bought each plant from! The love for plants was inherent. "I grew up in Nasik surrounded by greenery and my mother too loved plants. I was lucky that after marriage, I moved to Mysore Colony with my husband where we have the luxury of having our own a garden."

There is not an inch of outdoor space that isn't green. At the entrance, the tropical plant - birds of paradise - welcomes visitors, while palm fronds lend a fresh look to the place. Each area has a natural landscape of large rocks, rracotta pots, lamps, tiny leaves in a variety of greens. The driveway has a wide ribbon of lush green grass in the centre and the walled fence has rows and rows of bonsai and a line of beautiful potted plants. It's not only the plants but the tiny artefacts adorning the pot or the area around that make this garden wonderful. Palms, ficus, hibiscus, ferns, junipers, jades...you name it and Anuradha has it in her garden. Tiny pots, ceramic containers, sea shells, coconut shells, terracotta pots and lanterns, glazed ware, tiny plastic pots hung on a wired fence make a charming landscape. "I find gardening a relaxing hobby and when my children used to go to school I used to be busy tending to the plants. Now I work in the garden on Sundays from morning till 3 pm. The best thing is I know each and every plant where it is and if my gardener keeps it elsewhere I immediately know!"









The art of Bonsai attracted Anuradha and she decided to explore this field. "I learnt bonsai from the Indo-Japanese association and now have my own collection of bonsai." A terrace garden is another luxury that Anuradha enjoys. Not only plants, but rocks in a variety of shapes, colours and sizes adorn her garden. Hanging pots, artifacts lend a charming dimension to the landscapes created by the lady. As an innovation, Anuradha used garden slabs to decorate the garden. In between the slabs, which are placed at a slant, she grew tiny grass, plants with tiny leaves to fill up the area and add greenery instead of allowing mud to be exposed. Her artistic talent extends to wall art too. A metal wall plaque is beautifully decorated next to her entrance door. She hung plants in a variety of tints of green on the plaque and made it an arresting piece that is eye-catching.

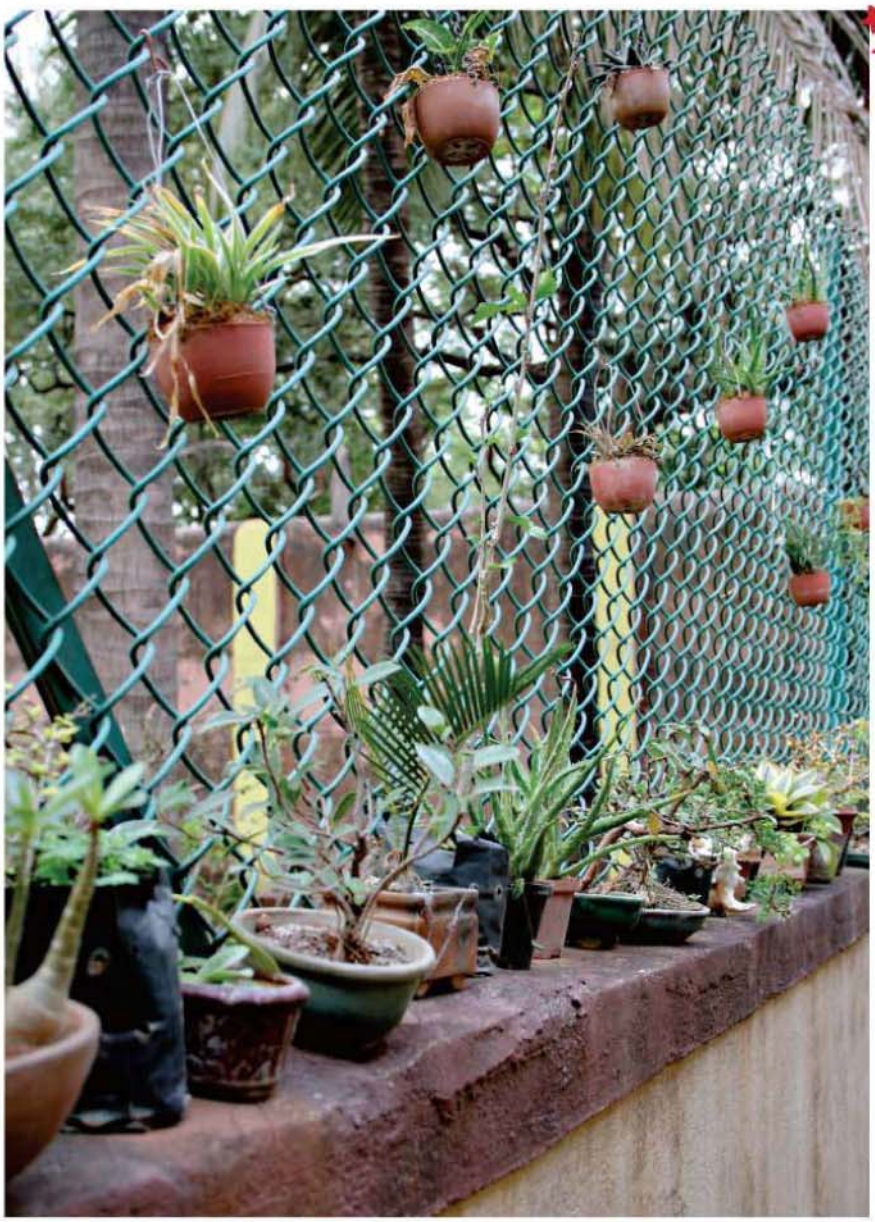
Daughters Shalini and Mrinalini are very encouraging of their mother. "Shalini lives in Bangalore and travels a lot. Whenever she sees something that she thinks will fit into my garden she picks it up."

Plants dot the entire garden at every level and trees have hanging baskets. "I made a waterfall too but one of the stone is cracked and I have to get it repaired," she says. "I love Areca palms and bonsai but am equally passionate about buying new varieties." She loves visiting nurseries and picking up plants adding to her collection. "You must maintain the plants you have before adding to your collection."

The lady loves her plants, takes good care of them and speaks very passionately about them.







TIPS FOR YOUR GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE

- Repotting must be done once a year and the pot should not be bound by roots
- Keep the soil light and aerated and moist. To it, add manure, peat moss, bone meal, pieces of bricks.
- Pruning your plants keeps them in shape and encourages growth. A few basic pruning cuts will help you rejuvenate and control the size of your shrubs and trees. For most plants, annual pruning should be done before monsoon to control the shape and size of the growth. Regular pruning throughout the growing season is done to harvest flowers, remove dead or diseased foliage or branches, and to create light penetration and airflow to the interior of the plant in order to increase bloom and overall plant health
- Spray pesticides regularly
- If you don't have space outdoors, try indoor plants like Aglonema, Ferns, Diffenbachia
- Always buy the right gardening tools – lawn mowers, good hoes, spades, rakes, pruners, and a sturdy wheelbarrow. Tools with steel blades are strong enough to last for years without bending. Stainless steel is even better, because it won't rust. Keep hand tools in a basket on the garage or pantry shelf so they are always easy to find. Nothing is more frustrating than seeing a branch in need of a quick trim but having to search all over the house and garage for a pair of pruning shears. If all your tools are kept together -- and returned to their proper basket after each use
- Most plants thrive in some degree of bright sun exposure. While the intensity of light required by outdoor plants varies, with the exception of shade-loving plants like tropical or woodland plants, all other plants require light for photosynthesis and bloom
- Soil condition is also a key factor that varies for different types of plants. All plants need moisture to grow, even if you are growing a succulent garden with plants adapted to the arid desert

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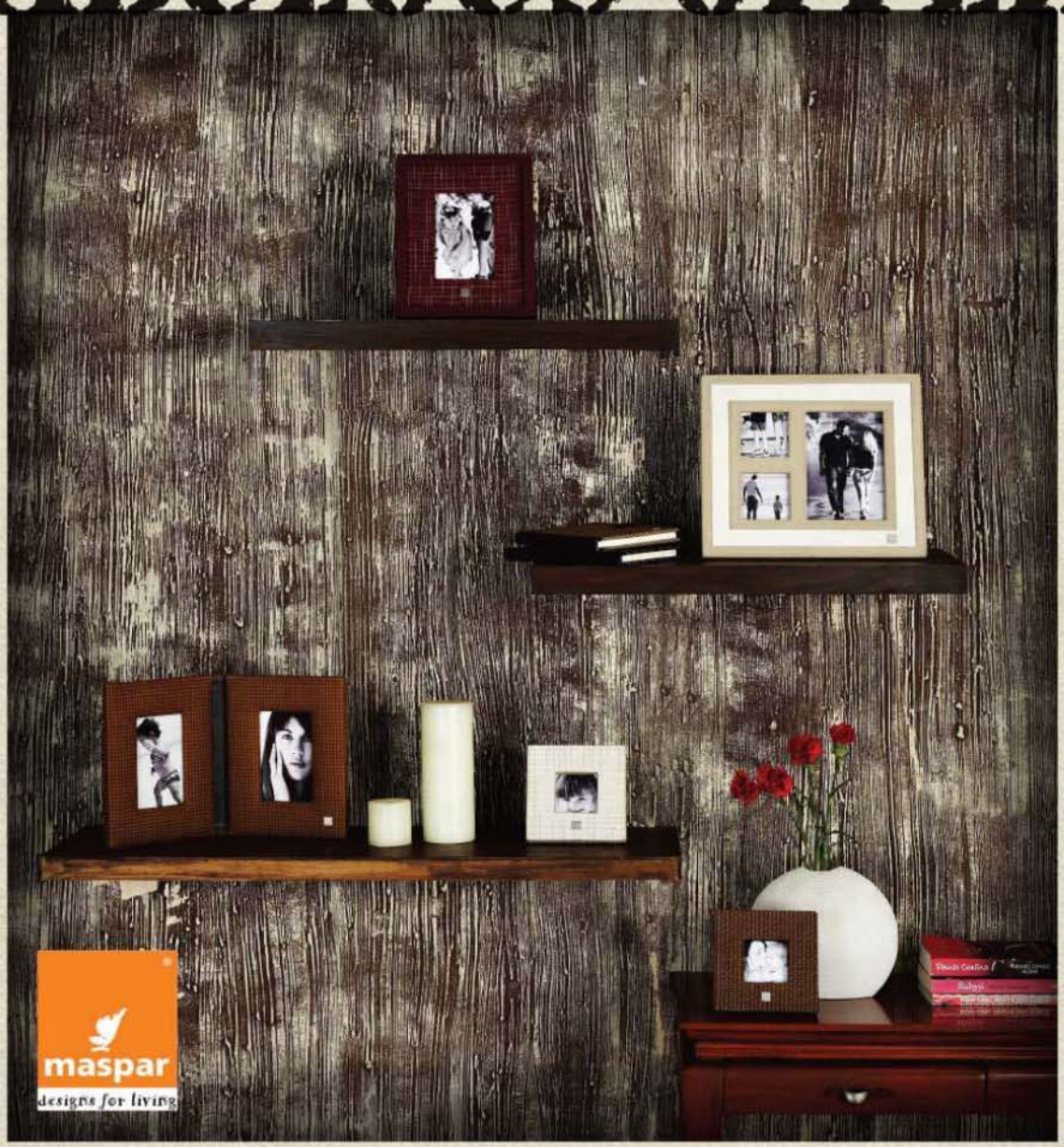
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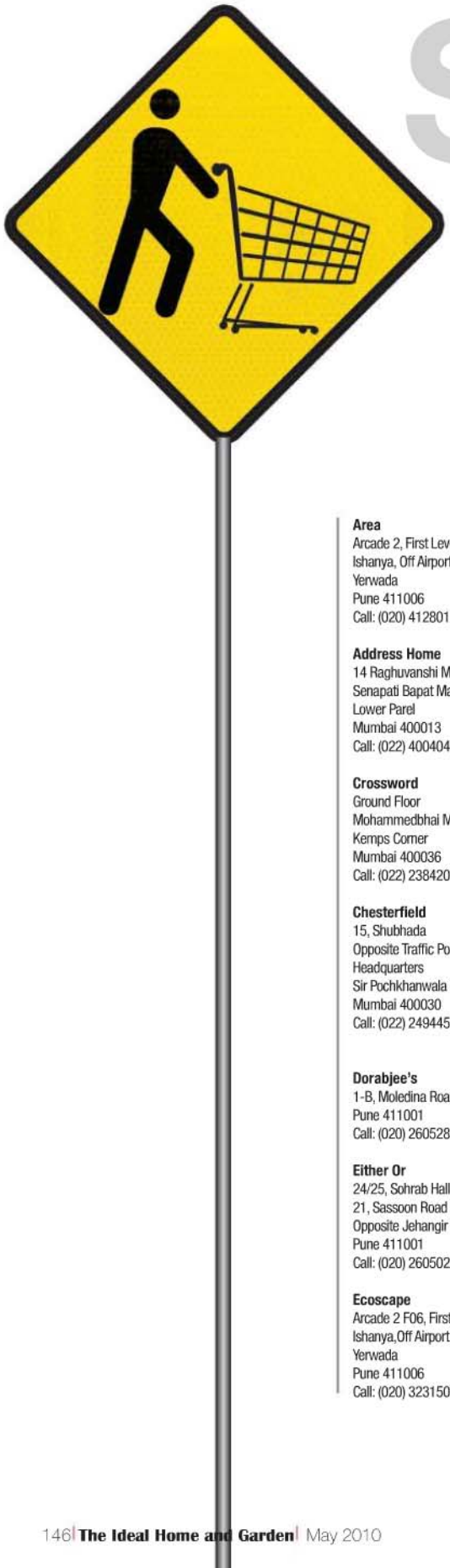
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