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ELLE DECOR

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JUNE - JULY 2023, ₹150

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BATHROOMS
WHERE WE'D
RATHER BE!

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SALONE DEL
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CONCRETE COCOONS

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QUICK WORD

WHAT IS THE FIRST THING YOU DO AT THE WORKPLACE? Get a cup of coffee, light a candle or an incense stick

DECOR ESSENTIALS Notebook, our laptops, iPad and of course, sketch pens

THREE THINGS ONE SHOULD INCORPORATE IN THEIR OFFICE Good lighting, functionality alongside lots of plants

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Disha Bhavsar (L) and Shivani Ajmera (R) in the tiled foyer of their studio
 Photograph by Gokull Rao Kadam; One has to pass forth the owner's nameplate that still finds itself on one of the doors of Quirk Studio to enter a world that hosts artworks from Art&Found and furniture that are local finds; Keepsakes from the eight years of Quirk Studio's journey can be found in the little nooks of the office



IN STUDIO WITH
QUIRK STUDIO

We take you to the workspace of your design favourites, giving you a glimpse of what keeps them ticking—period collectibles, paintings and lots of indoor plants!

TEXT BY **TANVEE ABHYANKAR** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **BAJIRAO PAWAR**

"Bandra is an emotion. I think we'll always be in Bandra!"



With design magazines and quirky mementos, their cabin is connected to the work desks. Most of the furniture in the office is brought in from local vendors and houses a storage unit from IKEA and hanging lights from Oorjaa



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Against the backdrop of pristine white walls and vintage door and window frames is the workstation with locally sourced furniture; The distressed door frames not only add an old world charm but also a sense of comfortable nostalgia; Curated by Art&Found, their love for art is evident as the minimally finished walls offer a quiet backdrop to the artworks

Bandra is an emotion, I think we'll always be in Bandra," laugh the founder-designer duo of Quirk Studio, Disha Bhavsar and Shivani Ajmera as they sit in their office nestled in the quiet bylanes of Bandra. The studio saw its initial phase on Disha's dining table (at her home), and has now evolved into their fourth office space. The present-day studio is nestled on the ground floor apartment of an 100-year-old building which opens into a whole different world altogether, away from the chaos and cacophony of the city.

Disha grew up in Oman, Muscat, and was always sure that it was design that she wanted to study and follow. She made her move in pursuing it academically, with a post-graduation in Design Management from University of Southampton. On the other hand, Shivani, who lived in Mumbai since childhood and has a background in theatre, was always inclined towards art and design. She made her switch after completing her Mass Media degree to go ahead and study interior design in Italy. The duo met each other in the ELLE DECOR India office and eventually joined forces to co-create Quirk Studio. >>



From the flooring to light fixtures, everything croons a familiar melody. A colour palette of blacks, whites and browns dictate the mood of the foyer. A framed photograph by Kuber Shah finds its place above the daybed, along with other art curated by Art&Found



OLD MEETS NEW

The concept was always clear to them—it had to feel like a home away from home. “It was after COVID that we found this place and absolutely loved it,” muses Disha as she speaks about the serendipity of chancing upon the property, especially because it has an adjoining garden, a rarity in Mumbai. “Only add, not take away,” muse the partners as they lay emphasis on approaching the space with sensitivity and nuance. This connotation translated in the design language is experienced throughout the office—be it the old beams or the hardwood distressed door. By retaining the original floor plan that dates back to the 1900s, the office space manages to keep its primary bones intact.

OFFICE WITH A QUIRK

There is a pop of colour paired with indoor plants in the nooks and crannies. As the foyer puts visitors at ease, the former living room is now the common work studio. A bedroom from the initial floor plan is converted into the main cabin whereas the other bedroom now functions as a meeting room. The kitchen is converted to a pantry, a small yet functional space, making way for the washrooms that are quietly tucked away in the back of the space.

Disha and Shivani have an aligned sense of design but with distinct personalities. The office too radiates a similar coherent style—minimal yet quirky. It borders on raw, that is almost rustic with an old-meets-new charm and home to laughter, creativity and a place that shapes dreams into reality—a la la land of design! ♦

Instagram: @quirkstudio



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP The daybed matches with the wooden roller blinds, just like the framed photograph by Kuber Shah vibes with the black, white and beige foyer; Collectibles from over the years are placed on a beautiful white shelf to give them the space they deserve; All spaces in the studio are visually connected to each other via the windows—a manifestation of the studio’s relationship with its former occupants; A desk and chair brought in from a local vendor are set against the wall with a big window that overlooks the lush green outdoors

