

ARCHITECT and INTERIORS INDIA

Inspiration and insight for architects and interior designers

Vol 11 | Issue 11 | February 2020 | ₹100

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QUINTESSENTIALLY QUIRKY

DISHA BHAVSAR AND SHIVANI AJMERA OF QUIRK STUDIO LEND AN ELEGANT CHARM TO TWO MUMBAI HOMES, YET INFUSE BOTH WITH THEIR SIGNATURE DOSE OF QUIRKINESS

BY MITALEE KURDEKAR

Faced with the rarity that is an expansive space in Mumbai, it is easy to do too much with it. However, interior designers Disha Bhavsar and Shivani Ajmera of Quirk Studio have paid homage to the space, creating a modern home that exhibits understated luxury, while also displaying a cheerful vibe to suit the needs of its inhabitants – a young couple and their toddler. The original six bedrooms of the suburban home were converted into a spacious two-bedroom layout, which largely follows a monochromatic colour palette. To add depth to the

space, the designers have used different textures, along with an assortment of mirrors, luminaires and plush furniture.

"The aim was to create a space that had a classic, contemporary and modern aesthetic, but, at the same time, exuded fun, colour and eclectic elements through art, accessories, accent furniture and lights," explains Bhavsar.

And that is exactly the mix that has been achieved. In keeping with the home owners' design brief and personality, the designers decided to stick to a neutral palette with regard to the floor and wall finishes. While grey ceramic tiles have been

1. The den has been peppered with eclectic pieces to create a happy vibe.



PROJECT DETAILS

Name of the project: House No. 12
The designers: Disha Bhavsar, Shivani Ajmera
Area: 2400 sq-ft
Location: Khar, Mumbai
Duration of project: 7 months
Date of completion: June 2019

used through the living, dining and kitchen area, the walls are covered with Everest board panelling in a deeper tone of beige with a metal shadow groove running across their surface. The main living area also sports a wooden finished ceiling, offering a degree of warmth to the space. Upon stepping past the entrance foyer, one is greeted with a customised marble console as well as an antique brass pipe screen with a cluster of grey, tinted glass pendant lights, creating a strong visual impact. The living room boasts three seating areas, which, despite being in three different corners, are in perfect harmony with one another. To differentiate between these spaces, an elevation has been added to the left side of the home, where a feature wall

MATERIALS & SUPPLIERS

Flooring: SM Granites
Veneer: Lamineer
Stone: Classic Marble: World of Stones
Lighting/ light fixtures: Jainson Emporio, Arjun Rathi Lighting
Paint: Prajapati Tech
Furniture: Bharat Furnishing
Sanitary fittings: C Boghilar West End
Air-conditioning/ HVAC system: SM Engineers

has been crafted out of 3-dimensional hand-made tiles and highlighted with a special focus light, forming a play of shadows and colours. Additionally, a customised concrete-finished dome coffee table and comfortable armchairs from Phantom Hands border the main seating area.

The living room spills into the dining area, which follows a minimalistic brief. A live-edge wood dining table from 'and so' and modern chandelier by Arjun Rathi take pride of place. In the den, which truly reflects the personalities of the homeowners, the neutral theme continues with a solid grey epoxy flooring and a wooden panelled ceiling. An eclectic art wall adds a

2. The use of wood, a concrete-finished coffee table with gold accents and regal upholstery make for an earthy, yet opulent living area.

3. The powder room adds an element of drama to the home.



PROJECT DETAILS

Name of the project: Spenta Alta Vista

The client: Spenta Corporation

The designers: Disha Bhavsar, Shivani Ajmera

Lighting consultants: Objects of Interest

Area: 800 sq-ft

Location: Chembur, Mumbai

Duration of project: 6 months

Date of completion: December 2018

pop of colour to the space.

If there is one space that stands apart, it is the powder room. "In order to push the envelope in terms of design, the powder room has been accentuated with a dramatic, dimly-lit mood that is enhanced with the vintage floral wallpaper by Nilaya. We have finished the look with an antique mirror, a custom-made brass under-counter table having a wooden top and a circular brass suspended mirror," states Ajmera.

Moving into the master bedroom, on one side stands a wall dedicated to fond memories in the form of photographs. The room opens into the walk-in wardrobe, shoe closet and luxurious master bathroom that features 'his and her' basins, crafted from a river-washed Kalinga stone. Here, the wall behind the mirrors is finished in a patterned leaf wallpaper, while Sonata Grey marble lines the rest of the space. The nursery uses subtle shades of grey, yellow and green in a wallpaper that radiates a gentle warmth, while a custom daybed in white PU, and walk-in wardrobe finished in white back-painted glass shutters and PU shutters with pastel coloured wooden knobs, complete the



MATERIALS & SUPPLIERS

Lighting/ light fixtures: Objects of Interest, Kaleido, Claro

Paint: JV Interiors, Asian Paints

Furniture: Customised

look. The bathroom is finished in Volakas marble with a statement bath vanity counter. Each element ties the space together aesthetically, without compromising on the coziness that makes for a cherished home.

On the other side of the city, Quirk Studio has fashioned another residential space, this time a show apartment for Spenta Corporation at their Alta Vista project. The compact flat came with a specific design brief from the client, which was to create a space that belonged to a nuclear family, founded in the principles of community bonding.

"The design intent has been to create an adaptive space that would also be creative and inspiring, and would encourage families to invest in the space and feel at home. The design aesthetic was kept neutral, in order to ensure that each space would transition into one another seamlessly," says Ajmera.

For starters, the lift lobby area includes a wooden louvered ceiling of varying shades, besides having light-coloured walls with a monotone, textured wallpaper, which is highlighted with contemporary brass scones.

Once inside, the living room sees the use of large wooden grid mirror panelling, making the area seem more spacious than it is. Also, the walls follow the same neutral tone prevalent throughout the space, with the décor and furniture – such as the olive-green sofa in suede and a tan leather armchair – offering bursts of colour and drama. Smack in the centre lies a pair of marble-top coffee tables, coupled with a black floor lamp, perfectly complementing each other. A circular wooden dining table with tripod-style legs, grey suede dining chairs with brass accents and a bauble chandelier, take up a corner, giving the

space a contemporary, yet luxurious feel.

Continuing with this design aesthetic, the kitchen follows a classic white-and-grey theme, and features a cherry-shaped pendant light and warm, wooden blinds.

"The children's room stands out amidst this space with a dusky blue wallpaper that is printed with birds, and echoes the grey interiors of the space," suggests Bhavsar. This vibrant wallpaper is also offset with a chesterfield grey, suede day-bed and concrete pendant lights on either side. Besides this, the white wardrobe and study make for an interesting addition, while fun graphic prints are framed in white, adding a different element.

The master bedroom has been crafted in a classical and understated fashion, and includes a panelled wall in concrete finish behind the bed. The upholstered bed, tinted glass wardrobe, night stands and TV unit, blend in seamlessly with the space. The halo night lamps add a delicate touch of warmth, whereas the whimsical chandelier creates a great talking point.

Finally, the bathrooms are designed with a functional sensibility, with under-counter storage, black & white art and wooden blinds. All the curtains and rugs in the space have been kept understated, to allow natural light to flow in and fill the space, while the accessories, art and planters have been carefully chosen to add a level of grandeur and positivity.

All in all, the elegance exuded by both spaces is evident, yet it is their quirkiness that prevails. **AB**

4. Statement furniture pieces add colour to the otherwise muted living room.

5. Disha Bhavsar and Shivani Ajmera of Quirk Studio.

6. The study forms an interesting space in the children's room.

7. The master bedroom is opulently done, yet has a certain warmth to it.

8. The children's room uses a pleasing shade of blue.