



# PAPER TO PILLARS

Inside a 6,500 sq ft Hyderabad bungalow  
where Auroville's serenity meets heritage and craft

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The living room is a kaleidoscope of art and design, featuring chairs and corner consoles from The Hesperus Store, a centre table by The Purple Turtles, and Dasavatara art by Studio Orion. Pendant lights from Inhabit cast a balanced glow over the Sabyasachi for Nilaya wallpaper by Asian Paints above and the Home Neera carpet below (OPPOSITE PAGE) The brief for the home - to feel grounded and warm - is exemplified in this intimate sitting area

Seating eight, the dining area is a refined oasis of vintage charm, enriched by warm timber, woven cane, aged brass, and layered textiles that soften the light and add tactile depth



As a young architecture student at New York's Pratt Institute, Nilasha could scarcely have imagined that she would one day be building houses twice – first out of paper, then in brick and stone. That unlikely reality came true in 2024, when her Hyderabad-based practice, Studio Nilasha, took on a project in the city that demanded a more traditional design language than the studio was used to. Struggling at first to judge the scale and proportions of mouldings and ornamental details, the team resorted to full-scale paper mock-ups. Before long, walls were taped over with balustrades, window grilles, and even stained-glass stand-ins, until, as Nilasha jokes, “we accidentally built the entire house in stationery before building it for real.”

The playful process suited the homeowners – who discovered Studio Nilasha through a friend and felt an immediate connection to its material sensitivity – rather perfectly. Prashanth, an entrepreneur, and Sunaina, who works in creative direction and branding, move easily between structure and intuition, guided by a shared belief in thoughtful living and a worldview shaped by Indian philosophy. As Nilasha explains, that translated into a simple goal: a home that felt grounded and a warm reflection of their South Indian roots. “We were looking for something calm and grounding,” Sunaina says, “a place that carried our cultural memory without feeling heavy-handed.”

That sensibility found its footing as Villa Auro, a 6,500 sq ft family home set within a green, open community chosen as much for its breathing room as for its location. Rather than relying on obvious gestures, the house builds its character through objects layered with meaning. A worn teak cabinet, coloured glass filtering daylight, a brass vessel placed almost casually, devotional art woven into everyday spaces – each piece recalls memory and belonging without turning the house into a time capsule. As Prashanth reflects, “Nothing here is meant to be ornamental. Everything is meant to be lived with.”

The architecture follows the same easy rhythm. A carved timber door opens into a formal living room grounded by stone floors and softened with lime plaster, where antiques



The bar showcases millwork, stone, and custom brass crafted by Niche Build Solutions, paired with Dastkari chairs upholstered in Studio Orion fabrics. Curtains by Drapes N' More softly frame the space (OPPOSITE PAGE) Brass artefacts from the client's collection add character to the Scasa kitchen, while an island light from The Hesperus Store illuminates the space

and contemporary pieces sit side by side. Arched openings guide movement through dining and family spaces, allowing rooms to flow without fuss. Personal references surface quietly. A wooden balustrade reworks a familiar detail from Sunaina's childhood home, while stained glass offers a subtle nod to Hyderabad's architectural past. Technology stays largely out of sight, supporting daily routines without stealing the spotlight.

For Nilasha, Villa Auro marks a turning point – proof that restraint can make room for richness without losing its way. For Prashanth and Sunaina, it is a home that feels true to who they are. Or, as they put it simply, “It feels like us.” ♦ [studionilasha.com](http://studionilasha.com)



## HOME HYDERABAD

Classic touches meet cosy comfort in the primary bedroom, where an antique lamp from The Hesperus Store, wall lights by Luminary Studio, a Dastkari bed and side tables, wardrobes by Niche Build Solutions, and bedding from Cottons and Satins all come together



The lounge blends comfort and style with Dastkari furniture dressed in Studio Orion fabrics, set atop a Home Neera rug and Natural Elements wooden flooring. Curtains by Drapes N' More complete the look



**STUDIO NILASHA**, founded and led by Nilasha, creates spaces that combine authenticity, craft, and emotional resonance. Drawing on her experiences across New York, Florence and Hyderabad, Nilasha brings a global perspective to architecture, interiors and furniture design. Each project is treated as a layered dialogue between culture, context and the people who inhabit it, resulting in environments that feel elegant, personal, and deeply reflective of the stories behind them.

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE HOME IN THREE WORDS?**  
Rooted, layered, expressive.

**WHAT WAS THE FIRST DESIGN DECISION YOU LOCKED IN?**  
The base material palette of lime plaster, teak, brass and Kota stone, because it became the anchor that allowed tradition and modernity to coexist.

**A DETAIL ONLY ANOTHER ARCHITECT WOULD NOTICE?**  
The way arches, mouldings and traditional details are carefully rescaled and re-proportioned to maintain contemporary clarity, rather than becoming literal references.

**IF YOU COULD STEAL ONE IDEA FROM THIS PROJECT FOR YOUR OWN HOME?**  
The integration of antiques and thrifted objects into everyday living spaces, so the home feels authentic and lived-in, rather than styled.



On the first-floor sit-out, refurbished ancestral furniture is softened by Cottons and Satins cushions. Sunlight dances through stained glass panels, while brass artefacts from the clients' collection gleam with quiet charm (OPPOSITE PAGE) The daughter's bedroom is a La La Land of pastel colours and whimsical shapes. A pendant light from Luminary Studio hangs above a bed and side table by Dastkari, while bespoke woodwork by Niche Build Solutions adds the finishing touch