

WHERE MAGIC DWELLS

With custom artwork, sculptural accents and scintillating finishes, this Kolkata abode by Spaces and Design has surprises around every corner

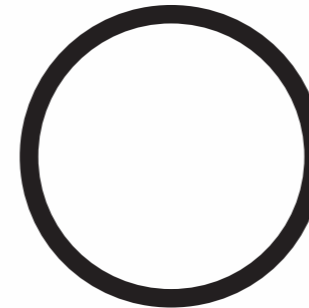
WORDS VAISHNAVI NAYEL TALAWADEKAR **PHOTOS** ISHITA SITWALA
STYLING SAMIR WADEKAR

In the formal living room, an ultramarine Asim Waqif wall installation from Nature Morte takes centre stage, serving as a backdrop for the bespoke octagonal centre table. The furnishings are from Skipper Furnishings, while the sofas are by Arketipo. The side table and rug were sourced from Iqrup & Ritz and Cocoon Fine Rugs respectively. Lightkrafts and Flos were the stores of choice for the lighting





In the formal living room, artworks and furniture sit on the same plane. The chandelier is by Klove Studio, while the sofas and pouffes are by Arketipo. The glass armchairs and furnishings were respectively procured from FIAM Italia and Skipper Furnishings



n a tree-lined avenue in one Kolkata suburb, is an apartment that could well have tumbled out of an art gallery. Or a haveli. Or a postcard from an alternate realm. And yet, when Pooja Bihani dreamed up the design for the home, she was inspired

by none of these places. “Instead, I was inspired by the number five, because it symbolises the number of members in the family,” muses the founder and principal of Kolkata-based interior design firm Spaces and Design. Of course, the inspiration was also the response to a very specific brief: to design a space that would hold an enduring novelty for the homeowners and their three kids. For Pooja, then, the priority was conjuring that permanent sense of magic.

Spread across nearly 5,000 square feet, the dwelling features a lobby, a foyer, informal and formal living rooms, and a playroom, besides the customary bedrooms and service areas. But for Pooja, the project came in phases. “The building was still under construction when we began, and the final floor was added much later,” she recalls, adding that the impact of the civil work meant new leakages, unpredicted ceiling cracks, and many plans thrown out of kilter. But her main challenge, she maintains, lay in interpreting the clients’ love of art into physical objects, spaces and details.

The home opens up like a jewel box, with custom artworks, dazzling objets d’art and carved monolithic sandstone pillars each waiting to be discovered. An arcade of five arches (each one emblematic of a family member) distinguishes the living room from the dining area, while a 20-foot community table serves as an invisible line between the interior and the landscape. The curiosities don’t end there. A concrete curtain masquerades as a



The community table in the living room—designed in collaboration with Material Immaterial—features a zigzag embellishment à la a diving board. “The inspiration came from a sculpture I saw protruding out of the sea, while on a visit to the ARKEN Museum of Modern Art, just south of Copenhagen,” says Pooja

backdrop in the living room, acting as a prelude for the stone inlay that makes peek-a-boo appearances across the floor and walls. The powder room, meanwhile, stars a shamiana-style ceiling that channels a maharaja’s boudoir.

Another consideration for the homeowners, and for Pooja, was that the home should serve as a sanctuary far removed from the city. “It’s something she achieved with elan. Just a few weeks into the project, it was clear that she owned it, and that we were a solid team. So much so, that we actually felt happy letting go on those rare occasions when we were divided on decisions. She became our design doctor, a family member, and a wonderful collaborator who captured our vision and gave us our dream home,” they sign off. ♦ spacesanddesign.com



A view of the foyer, whose wood-paneled walls channel a tunnel-like illusion. The bench on the right is by Wicker Story, while the lighting is by Lightkrafts. The console is bespoke



The playroom is characterised by a central table and an enormous storage space for books, games and supplies. The furnishings and lighting are from Skipper Furnishings and Flos respectively. The chairs are NH48 finds

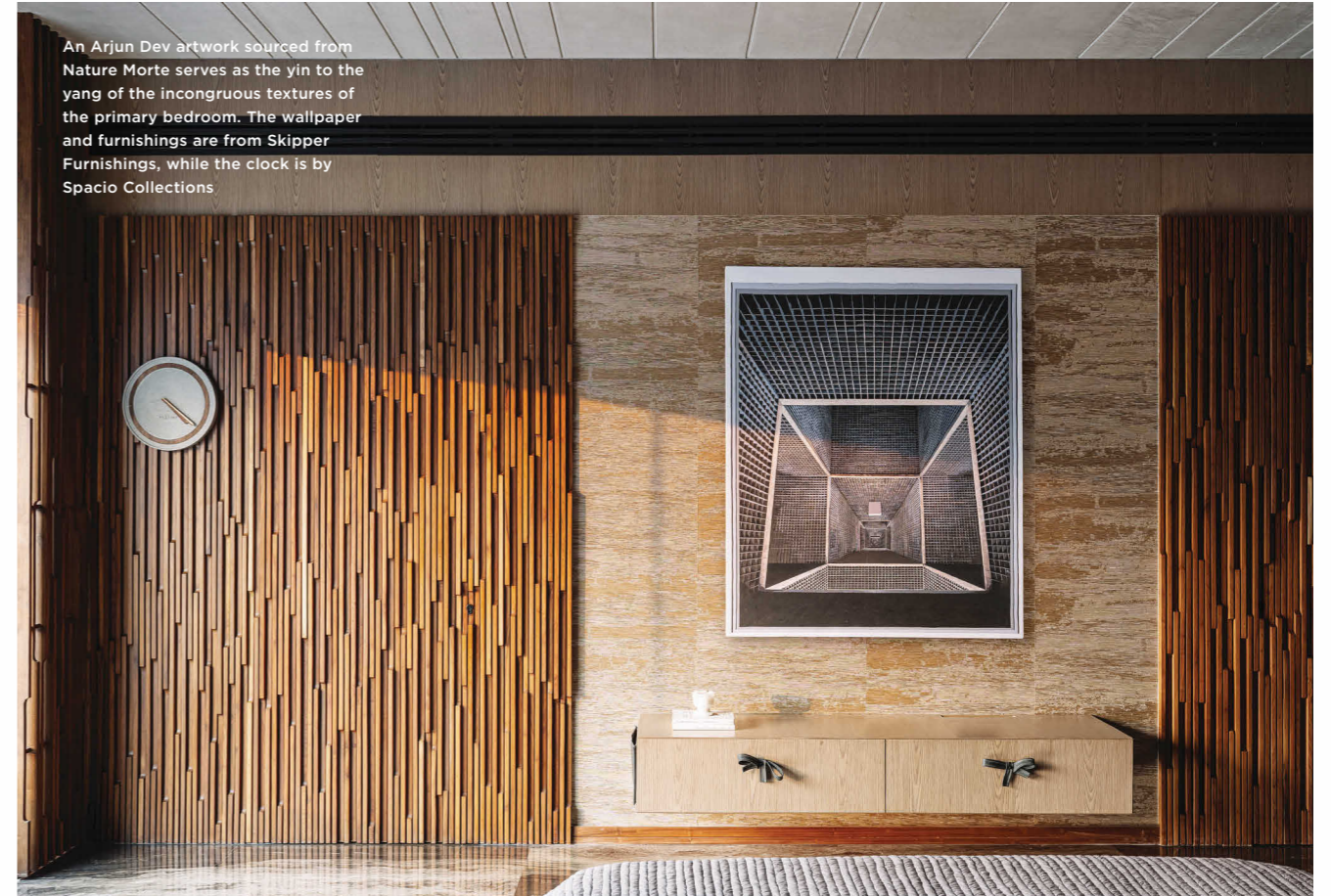


The dining room is defined by a vaulted ceiling and marble floor tiles in various tones of grey. The table, chairs and lighting are from The KOY Store, Within, and Flos and Lightkrafts respectively. The medallion artworks by artist Kumaresan are from Exhibit 320

“We kept things as minimal and subtle as possible, so that they [the owners] continue to resonate with it over the years, and it can evolve with their tastes over time”



The primary bedroom stars a constellation of muted tones, bespoke furniture and walnut wood accents. The bed is by Alsorg, while the wallpaper and furnishings are by Skipper Furnishings. Colour Coats was the brand of choice for the wall finishes. A chandelier by Klove Studio overarches the bed. The ambient lighting is by Lightkrafts



An Arjun Dev artwork sourced from Nature Morte serves as the yin to the yang of the incongruous textures of the primary bedroom. The wallpaper and furnishings are from Skipper Furnishings, while the clock is by Spacio Collections

“The home opens up like a jewel box, with custom artworks, dazzling objets d’art and carved monolithic sandstone pillars each waiting to be discovered”



With monochrome cogs accenting the wall, the son's bathroom could have tumbled out of a black-and-white version of Toy Story. The fittings are from Kohler and Hansgrohe. The vanity is bespoke

“Another consideration for the homeowners, and for Pooja, was that the home should serve as a sanctuary far removed from the city”



The primary bathroom is a bespoke masterpiece. The ceiling, lights and vanity were magicked up in-situ. The fittings are by Hansgrohe