

The informal lounge is at one with nature. A pair of tan Le Club chairs by Poliform cut a sylvan contrast to the treetops, while a trifecta of Ovni Up coffee tables by Roche Bobois anchors the setting. Behind the Dock sofa by B&B Italia hides the true crown jewel: a hand-carved marble and platinum relief of running horses. The music system is disguised as a wall panel

WORLD OF POS-SEA-BILITIES

In this Mumbai home by AVN Interiors, the seafront masquerades as a majestic work of art

WORDS VAISHNAVI NAYEL TALAWADEKAR
PHOTOS TALIB CHITALWALA

“One of the most interesting features is the windows, which, when opened, allow the balconies to be absorbed into the internal footprint”

The multi-purpose room is ideal for lounging, playing or hosting guests

There are few places in Mumbai that look quintessentially un-Mumbai, and AVN Interiors’s latest work of art, a seafront Juhu apartment, is one of them. “I remember stepping inside for the first time and just standing there, taking in the view. Gone was the hustle and bustle of the city. Instead, all I could see was the sea rolling into the horizon. And I thought, how can we even match that picture postcard view?” says Aditi Vora Nair, founder and principal of the Mumbai-based interior design studio.

As it turned out, she didn’t need to. By keeping the ocean front and centre, she was able to work backwards, magicking up a view in every room by making the coastline part of the experience. In her mind, the vision was clear: if the sea was its own master, the home would play its muse. And so, she used clean lines and minimal forms to calm the current, and summoned vistas by cancelling any walls that eclipsed what lay beyond. So much so, that each room was bequeathed an equal view of the sea, even the informal living area situated at the far back, courtesy of the wall-less layout that challenges where the outdoors and indoors meet.

With more light came more clarity, specifically in the way of the palette, which Aditi explains took a great deal of thought, for good reason. In an effort to conjure calm and channel attention to the coastline, the designer hushed the material scheme, opting for alabaster walls and delicate art-filled dividers that at once divide and coalesce the

various common realms. She paid special attention to the floor, specifying iteration after iteration over a period that lasted over six months, before zeroing in on a Statuario marble with a grain so light and sheeny that it “makes you feel like you’re walking on water.”

The ocean vistas go hand in hand with modern conveniences, although the latter cleverly stay hidden in plain sight. A case in point? The 125-inch TV in the living area, which, along with the home theatre speaker, camouflages into the surrounding black-panelled frame. Each space also has its own sound ecosystem, because as Aditi explains, “the owners love music and wanted to be surrounded by it.” But admittedly for the designer, integrating technology of such great proportions into her minimalist aesthetic lexicon was no mean feat. “We really wanted the serenity of the environment to flow into the interior, but we were wary of throwing that off-kilter with bulky electronic additions,” admits the designer, who resorted to concealing speakers and systems inside and along panels, columns and beams to maintain a sense of balance.

Ask her what she considers the home’s pièce de résistance and she doesn’t hem or haw. “One of the most interesting features is the windows, which, when opened, allow the balconies to be absorbed into the internal footprint,” Aditi avers. In want of some sunshine? Transform them into little al fresco oases. Too rainy to step out? Convert them into indoor sit-outs. In this home, no weather rules apply. It’s a year-round sanctuary that is at one with the seasons. ♦ avninteriors.com

Demarcated from the living room by way of slender shelves, the minimally outfitted dining area cedes the spotlight to the sea beyond



The kitchen, cocooned in wood tones, doffs its hat to the coastal landscape

“By keeping the ocean front and centre, she was able to work backwards, magicking up a view in every room by making the coastline part of the experience”



With marble inlay flooring, fluted glass shutters and an abiding sense of symmetry, the entrance serves as an overture to the following geometric volumes. The console is Brabbu's Colosseum design. The hanging lights are from Melogranoblu



HELMED BY ARCHITECT Aditi Vora Nair, a graduate of the American University of Sharjah and the Kent Institute of Art & Design, AVN Interiors is a Mumbai-based architecture and interior practice that focuses on designing beautiful, bespoke spaces enhanced for everyday living. Informed by an ethos of evergreen design, its portfolio is decidedly contemporary, with a classic slant.

IF THIS HOME WERE TO BE DESCRIBED AS A



The balconies can be pulled in or pushed out to suit the season. Pictured here is a pulled-in version, ideal for some indoor lounging when the weather plays spoilsport

POPULAR MOVIE TITLE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
Music and Lyrics, considering the house is designed for people who have a flair for music.

WHAT'S ONE THING YOU'D REDO IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME?
Honestly, nothing.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST SPLURGE WHILE DESIGNING THIS HOME?
The Statuario marble and other exotic stones.

AND THE BIGGEST SAVE?
Keeping an equal focus on function. What better way to save than optimising ergonomics?