

# GARDEN IN THE SKY

A sweeping sky terrace and layers of art give this South Mumbai home by Gesamt Design a lush, lived-in edge

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The living room's Georgian-inspired windows forge an elegant connection with the landscape beyond, giving the high-rise apartment the atmosphere of a secluded villa. Forest-green sofas, botanical-print bergère chairs, an ivory bouclé daybed, and an antique Persian rug from Jaipur Rugs lend the space a richly layered character (OPPOSITE PAGE) The landscaped terrace by Ashini Parikh, planted with frangipani, monstera, and bamboo palms, forms the green heart of the home. A double-height swing and a serene *Nandi* sculpture by Mahendra Doshi inspire a sense of playfulness and calm



An adjacent den extends the social space through sliding-folding partitions, allowing the room to open up for gatherings or close off into a private guest suite with equal ease



The dining room embraces a more dramatic mood with black-stained oak panelling, a dark timber table by Mahendra Doshi, and graphic dining chairs set beneath a bespoke light from Kriva Lighting Solutions with warm brass tones and an integrated tubular fan (OPPOSITE PAGE) The kitchen takes on a lighter mood with white shaker cabinetry, fluted glass, subway tiles, and brass cup-pulls, while a concealed collapsible flap opens the space towards the terrace, making the transition between indoors and out feel easy and natural



In South Mumbai, where square footage is social currency and terraces are practically mythology, Purvi Sheth and Dev Raman's home feels a little unreal: a sweeping landscaped terrace suspended high above the city, lush enough to feel like a private garden that somehow drifted into the sky. For interior designer Komal Sanghavi Vasa of Gesamt Design, that terrace became the beginning of everything.

"My immediate instinct was to make the apartment answer to that terrace, not the other way around," says Komal, who worked alongside Akshat Tripathi of Vaishali Kamdar Associates, the firm led by Purvi's close friend Vaishali Kamdar, whose understanding of her tastes helped shape the project. The original layout felt far too conventional for a home with this kind of drama, so the floor plate was almost entirely reworked. Walls shifted, windows were softened with a Georgian-inspired language, and every room was subtly turned towards the greenery outside.

Planned with landscape designer Ashini Parikh, the terrace feels like a suspended Eden: frangipani, monstera, bamboo palms, and dense tropical shrubs rising into a verdant canopy against the skyline. From almost anywhere on the lower level, your eye lands there first, as though the entire home is orbiting this pocket of foliage and sky. A dramatic double-height swing adds a little theatre, while a serene *Nandi* sculpture brings calm.

The duplex oscillates between two very different moods, connected by a sculptural lift that reads like a dark monolithic cube at its centre. While the lower level feels open, social, and always pulled towards the terrace, the upper floor melts into something quieter and more private. The master suite, guest bedroom, and study are layered with restored heirlooms, thoughtful detailing, and materials chosen to last longer than trends do.

"Dev and Purvi bring very different energies to the home, and the design holds both," says Komal. "Dev's deep love for Indian classical music and art is woven into the architecture

itself, while Purvi's warmth, love of colour, and instinct for generous hospitality are present in every detail." And, hospitality is really the point here. "Our doors are always open," says Purvi. Naturally, entertaining shaped the design. The dining room, wrapped in black-stained oak and lit by a bespoke brass-and-fabric pendant with an elegant inbuilt fan, feels dramatic without trying too hard. A custom dining table by Mahendra Doshi anchors the room, while black-and-white upholstered chairs bring just enough mischief.

The kitchen, though, may be the real star. Within just 115 sq ft, it had to handle Purvi's love for hosting and her 'happy kitchen' venture. Divided into cooking, cleaning, and pantry zones, it is finished in white shaker cabinetry, fluted glass inserts, subway tiles, and brass cup pulls. A concealed collapsible flap opens directly onto the terrace, making the kitchen feel like it spills into the garden beyond.

The couple's brief for the decor was refreshingly honest: "We love colour – a designer's horror!" But they were equally

clear that they wanted a home that felt timeless rather than trendy. Tanjore paintings, Pattachitra works, Meghalayan black clay pottery and antique amphorae sit alongside restored family pieces, including an ancestral bed and an heirloom chest of drawers.

"We wanted our home to reflect the stories behind our personalities, our lives and our art," Purvi says. "We wanted something that would age gracefully with us." And it does. The living room hosts intimate classical music *baithaks*, the terrace draws everyone towards its swing, and every corner feels designed for both celebration and comfort – exactly as home should. ♦ Instagram: @gesamt\_design

The guest bedroom takes on a softer mood with sage green walls and an ancestral bed at its centre (OPPOSITE PAGE) The master suite opens onto a sit-out overlooking the garden, with dark timber furniture offset by sunny shades of yellow and grey that lend the space a warm, uplifting air



**GESAMT DESIGN** was founded with a focus on a human-centric approach. The boutique-style studio, recognised globally, imbues spaces with healing, sensuous, and positive energies, rooted in contemporary art and philosophy. As the principal of Gesamt Design, Komal Sanghavi Vasa delves into research, psychology, and lighting design, leveraging her expertise to craft intuitive, human-centred experiences.

**WAS THERE A MOMENT DURING THE BUILD WHEN YOU THOUGHT, "THIS MIGHT NOT WORK?"**

Every single site meeting with the contractor, without exception.

**IF YOU COULD REDO ONE THING ABOUT THE HOUSE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

I would push the ceiling heights to their absolute maximum – the vertical scale of the space deserves every inch it can get.

**WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST SPLURGE?**

The centre table from Yasanche by Yashesh Virkar is a beautiful, generous commission in metal and travertine stone. It anchors the living room with exactly the kind of presence it deserves.

**YOUR BIGGEST SAVE?**

The taupe wall panelling on the lower level. It's simply painted and shadow-gapped – no marble, no timber cladding, no metal – and yet it sets the tone for the entire duplex with complete authority. Sometimes restraint is the most expensive-looking thing in the room.



Full-height taupe panelling stretches across the living room wall, discreetly concealing a bar within its seamless surface (OPPOSITE PAGE) From top: A compact study, carved from a once-residual passage, is finished with striped wallpaper, thoughtful detailing, and a brass library light from The Hesperus, creating a workspace that feels both focused and finely resolved; The powder room makes a bold impression with Kelly green walls paired against a monochrome mosaic-style floor