

A HOMEMADE HOLIDAY

Inspired by seaside memories, this sunny apartment by Deshna Kasliwal Design Studio is a permanent staycation

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The lounge changes its role to suit the occasion. Equipped with a BoConcept sofa-cum-bed, it swings between serving as a home office, a lounge and a guest bedroom



From top: The workstation in the primary bedroom is neighboured by a tall timber shelving unit; The kid's bedroom is brought to life with pastel shades and playful prints. It features embroidered curtains and bookshelves with rounded detailing

Like many young couples, Himani Agrawal and Krishna Khandelwal had long dreamed of owning their own home in Mumbai. Having met as students at IIT Bombay, and married soon after, there was something utterly magical about forging their next chapter in the Maximum City. So when it came time to make—and design—their maiden home, they knew they had to pick someone special. “The nature of their work requires them to be flexible in terms of location. So one of their prerequisites was that they be able to pick up and move easily, at minimum cost, if and when the scenario arose,” says Deshna Kasliwal, founder and principal designer of her eponymous Mumbai-based design firm.

With a toddler in tow, the couple was mindful about keeping things low-maintenance. “Himani, on her part, is constantly in the know of new technologies, and she and Krishna were never shy of making smart, high-end purchases that they knew would improve their quality of life,” shares Deshna. Together, they agreed on an aesthetic that riffed on coastal-chic, with the colours and character of a beachside holiday.

For a home that reminisces the seaside, the shell is wonderfully neutral. Italian marble floors, daisy walls and solid wood tables channel a breezy vibe, while whimsical prints and patterns enliven the sun and the sea. For the windows, Deshna chose sheers that would make the sun a close neighbour. As for the decor, she created a potpourri of unfussy vignettes: lush plants in the corners, colourful books on shelves, petite ceramics here, botanical prints there. There are plenty of contrasts too: the dining room, for example, with its black wainscoting and sepia photos (of the couple's travels), is a brooding counterpoint to the living room's light-toned avatar. Likewise, the entrance is crowned by a forest-green ceiling, while the master bedroom's marmalade accent wall nods to the sunshine.

The interior is a modular marvel. “It has been designed in a manner that all the furniture, including the wardrobes, can be dismantled easily, packed and moved to fit a new space with minimal hassle,” Deshna reveals. Besides its portability, what makes the furniture special is its functional edge. The lounge, for instance, can change its role to suit the occasion. Equipped with a BoConcept sofa-cum-bed-cum-desk, it is equal parts work and play, swinging between serving as a home office, a lounge and a guest bedroom. Or even a beachside holiday, on demand. ♦ Instagram: @deshnakasliwal



The living room is characterised by sand and sea tones. A summery wallpaper from Asian Paints clads one wall, while sheers from Cottons & Satins cloak the windows. The couch is from Gulmohar Lane, while the single-seater was sourced from Tianu and upholstered in a Sarita Handa fabric. The coffee table is a Studio Fragments find. The artworks are from Calcuttan.



The dining room is brooding and unconventional with charcoal wainscoting and a black-and-white photo vignette. The dining set is from Tianu, while the pendant was purchased from Hatsu.



Accented by a marmalade wall, the primary bedroom packs a functional punch with a hydraulic BoConcept bed (with a custom headboard). Classic wainscoting gives the room an old-world spin. The artworks are by Ketu Velani.

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