

# SOMETHING NICE FROM LONDON

With statements around every corner, this family bungalow by Quirk Studio inspires a swish English apartment

**WORDS** VAISHNAVI NAYEL TALAWADEKAR

**PHOTOS** KUBER SHAH

Upstairs, hides a family lounge that echoes the minimalist vibe of the lower floor. The chandelier and table lamps are from The White Teak Company and Pottery Barn respectively, while the peg table is by The House of Things. A carpet by Saraswati Rugs serves as a soft centrepiece, underpinning art by White Domus and side tables by Gunava Design. Accessories are from Ikai Asai, Pottery Barn, West Elm, The Faraway Tree India, Bombay Perfumery and Greyt



Hushed tones, wooden flooring and abstract artworks conjure a tranquil air in Swastic's bedroom. The lighting, art and furnishings are from Crescentlite Emporio, Dessine Art and Altrove respectively. The sofa is a custom design



**B**rothers Swastic and Satwic Ruia have always had an appreciation for the finer things in life, although theirs is a brand of quiet luxury that teeters on minimalist. Their home in Kolkata's Ballygunge, a two-storey bungalow they share with

their families, is a shining example. Designed like a modern English apartment, with vanilla cream tones, classic moulding and gilt-edged accents, it's a postcard from Mayfair that the Ruias have no plans of returning (nor do they need to). "The brief was short—to keep things simple and timeless," say the brothers, who enlisted principals Shivani Ajmera and Disha Bhavsar, and team members Parth Shah and Govind Jangid, of Mumbai-based Quirk Studio for the interior design, giving them free rein over the creative process.

Minimalist it may be, but the interior brims with characterful flourishes, giving pride of place to soft and statement-making details in equal spirit. Exhibit A: the lobby, where marble flooring with captivating black inlay serves as a calming antidote to the intricately patterned wallpaper, and old-world wainscoting adds dimension to the polished setting. Elsewhere, the designers offset the rigidity of the shell with undulating

forms—the living room, a classic case in point. With a curved ivory sofa, a brass centre table and an arched floor lamp, the angular cocoon gains an unyielding softness rare for a space so large.

When it came to colour, Disha and Shivani introduced measured doses by way of furniture and accents. Olive armchairs and a brass-detailed chandelier, for example, serve as colourful crown jewels in the informal lounge, otherwise a sweeping sea of ivory.

The bedrooms are warmer, calmer and more earthy—idyllic retreats for unwinding after a long day. And yet, they're a far cry from each other. Warm wooden flooring and a marble faux fireplace define one suite, while pristine marble tiles and leather embellishments characterise another. The art is broad-ranging, with photographs, abstract paintings and LEGO block tapestries taking the spotlight in turns.

As you make your way around, it's evident that the home's crowning glory isn't any of its spaces, but rather the staircase, enveloped in a glass vestibule like a glorious museum exhibit preserved for posterity. With wooden treads and glimmers of greenery, it doffs its hat to the outdoors while summoning those inside to venture even higher.

For the Ruias, the home holds a mirror to their original vision. "We appreciate simple and minimalist design and the home really does embody that sensibility. We couldn't be happier with the result," Swastic finishes. ♦ [quirkstudio.in](http://quirkstudio.in)

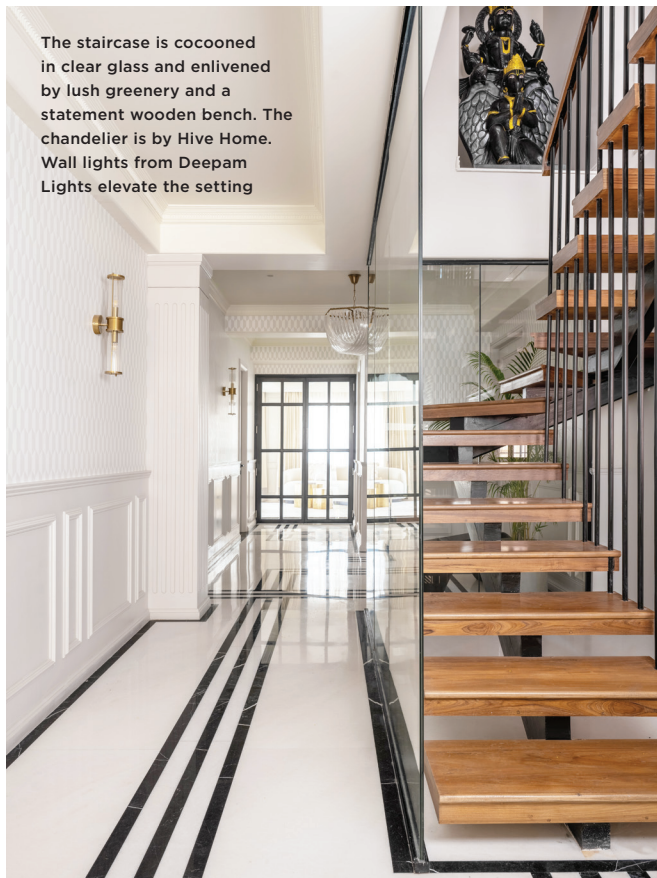
# HOME KOLKATA



A passage fit for a palace, with gilded sconces and dramatic marble inlay



Swastic's walk-in closet cuts a Stygian figure, courtesy of a chandelier from Deepam Lights



The staircase is cocooned in clear glass and enlivened by lush greenery and a statement wooden bench. The chandelier is by Hive Home. Wall lights from Deepam Lights elevate the setting



The coffee-toned banquette in the dining area is ideal for grab-and-go breakfasts or lazy Sunday brunches. The chandelier is by The Purple Turtles

The kitchen is defined by marble cladding and counters that seamlessly meld into each other





Ivory walls and muted artworks make Satwic's bedroom a slice of peaceful paradise. The bedside lights are Artemis designs, while the rug is a bespoke novelty by Saraswati Rugs. The furniture is custom-made. The furnishings are Altrove selections

With classical pillars, sweeping stone surfaces and diamond-patterned flooring, Swastic's bathroom is an object lesson in palatial proportions. The wall lights are from Crescentlite Emporio



Timeless yet decidedly of the moment, Swastic's bathroom basks in daisy tones. Crescentlite Emporio was the store of choice for the wall sconces

*“Minimalist it may be, but the interior brims with characterful flourishes, giving pride of place to soft and statement-making details in equal spirit”*