

# HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

This breezy Bengaluru penthouse by Weespaces brims with emblems of its owners' Kodava heritage

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The home is a reimagination of a Coorg plantation home, but with a modern industrial twist. In the living room, a plantation chair by Studio Ebony sits alongside a yellow chair by Bari India. The artwork is by Milind Nayak and the rug is a Manmade design. West Elm was the store of choice for the coffee table. The lighting is custom by The Purple Turtles





A red brick wall offers contrast and interest to the surrounding whiteness and cleverly disguises a column in the living area. Tucked behind the brick column is a bar cabinet and a reading nook with a plantation chair that overlooks the large open terrace. An artwork by Sathya Shivakumar echoes the rustic shell

**F**ew places hold a candle to the beauty of Coorg. Fewer still equal it in spirit. And yet, one penthouse in the green bylanes of Bengaluru's Cooke Town is an exception on both counts. With verdant pocket gardens, plenty of timber and stone, and a decidedly breezy air, the interior is a considered reimagination of a traditional Coorg plantation home and a reflection of the owners' Kodava heritage. The present-day version, however, is a fairly recent occurrence. When the homeowners, both lawyers, acquired it a few years ago, its thirty-year-old bones were in desperate need of restoration. In a bid to help them revive the place, and to make it slightly more liveable, they tapped interior designer Vinithra Amarnathan, founder and principal of Bengaluru-based design studio Weespaces, but not before presenting her with a shortlist of images capturing the wonders of their native land.

Vinithra, whose team also included designers Neha Gowda and Priyanka Khandekar, reinterpreted the natural wood and biophilic influences of Coorg colonial architecture through a contemporary lens, with moody palettes, exposed brick forms, and clean-lined furniture. "It started to feel like a modern loft with industrial touches," she says of the unlikely juxtaposition. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the home delivers an object lesson in opposites. The flooring changes course from white to grey to white again, appearing in the living room as vanilla cream marble, then in the dining area and kitchen as Hollywood-esque chequer-board tiles. Likewise, daisy walls serve as an antidote to the fire engine red brick column in the living room, which in turn, plays host to a bar.

The home is bejewelled with nooks and corners, each equally delightful. A reading area with a plantation chair overlooks the large open terrace, while a leather bench beneath the picture window in the foyer makes for an idyllic sunset perch. The patio by the living room is another spot for winding down, enlivened in a beautiful terracotta-patterned tile with red oxide trim. Other hidden away novelties include a terrace gazebo and an enchanting sunroom, where the line between nature and nest is perennially blurred.

Upstairs, each room is a world unto itself. The primary suite is an ivory oasis with an adjoining study emblazoned with tropical wallpaper. The second bedroom, antithetically, glows in floral motifs, while the third harks to the wild with sage green walls and deep wood beams. Perhaps the kaleidoscopic colour is a metaphor for the owners' lives—an emblem of the past and present and lands familiar and faraway. For the family, it's a second homecoming in more ways than one. ♦ [wee-spaces.com](http://wee-spaces.com)



A corner of the sunroom is presided by a daisy bookcase, keeping the owners' excellent company on rainy evenings

The dining room is enveloped by a curved wall filled with windows. A white-and-green quartzite hexagonal table takes centre stage. The pendant is from Gulmohar Lane



The kitchen is a mint haven that echoes the verdure outside



A peep into the sunroom, characterised by solid wood parquet flooring and a white coffered ceiling. A Scottish chequered fabric clads the sectional, and above it hangs an artwork by Jasu Rawal. The rug is a Jaipur Rugs design, while the floor lamp is by Orange Tree



A staircase with monochrome risers leads up to the second floor. The sculpture is by G. Subramaniam

A mirrored wall in the living room acts as a luminous sun catcher





The study nook adjoining the primary bedroom wears a wallpaper of palm trees and breathes a decidedly tropical vibe

A bedroom with sage green walls, deep wood rafters and Kota flooring. The cane bed and bedside tables are complemented by a kilim-upholstered bench

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