

## HOME MUMBAI

The living room, located downstairs, is a kaleidoscope of jewel tones. A coffee table by Rossana Orlandi acts as a rustic offset to the Tacchini sofa, while a Crush side table by Fernando Mastrangelo stands sentinel beyond, playing host to a sculptural Bomma lamp. The luminaire is a Serip design

# SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK

SHROFFLEÓN overcame a series of critical challenges to turn a crumbling Mumbai apartment into a luminous lightbox

WORDS VAISHNAVI NAYEL TALAWADEKAR PHOTOS KUBER SHAH

A peep into the primary walk-in closet, where a mirror by Scarlet Splendour, a chandelier by Rooshad Shroff and a Baxter chair channel a glamorous Hollywood vanity. The flooring is by Symphony International



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aría Isabel Jiménez León and Kayzad Shroff have an uncanny knack for making the best of a bad bargain. Even if said, bad bargain is followed by another, and then another. When the architects and co-founders of Mumbai-based multidisciplinary studio SHROFFLEÓN took up the (re)design reins for an apartment on Mumbai's Pedder Road, they couldn't have imagined the unlikely challenges that would follow. For one, a global pandemic. But also, a crumbling building, an overzealous building manager, and a Vincenzo de Cottis dining table that would refuse to fit through the lift. "Whatever could go wrong, did," jokes Kayzad. But there were some exceptions, including an interior that took on a life of its own, thanks to some clever sleights of hand and elements that were at once dark and light, easy and elevated, dramatic and discrete.

For María and Kayzad, the project was familiar territory. After all, they had collaborated with the owner multiple times in the past and felt comfortable knowing that they could anticipate her needs largely unprompted. "Our relationship had

transcended the architect-client dynamic a long time ago," says María of the clients, pharmaceutical professional Prakash Mody and his wife, Anita. But there was another sentimental motivation: the Modys had taken a chance on the pair when they were just a few years into their practice. Now, all these years later, it was a full-circle moment in more ways than one.

The only thing new, perhaps, was the design vocabulary, which María and Kayzad elected to mute, or at least minimise. And while they did opt for rich undertones, they underplayed them, ceding attention instead to the elements in the foreground. As for the flooring, the architects conjured a cool-warm visual tapestry, designating white lassa marble to the public areas and textured wooden panels to the private realms. "Anita preferred to keep things light and bright, so we used white as the predominant colour across the floors and ceilings," notes Kayzad. But it's not all hushed. Glimmers of wood, brass and coloured marble play peek-a-boo through the furniture and objets d'art, projecting a kaleidoscope of tones and textures that counterbalance the pared-back shell.

Clearly, in this home, the drama is in the details. Or more specifically, the floor. Example? The living room, where customised marble inlay, created in collaboration with New York City-based interdisciplinary artist Visakh Menon, serves as a dazzling tour de force. The home shapeshifts to reveal new focal points, as in the case of the primary bedroom, which comes to life by way of a bespoke brass wall panel by Scarlet Splendour, and the family room, where a larger-than-life divider by LOCO Designs brilliantly hides the living room next door.

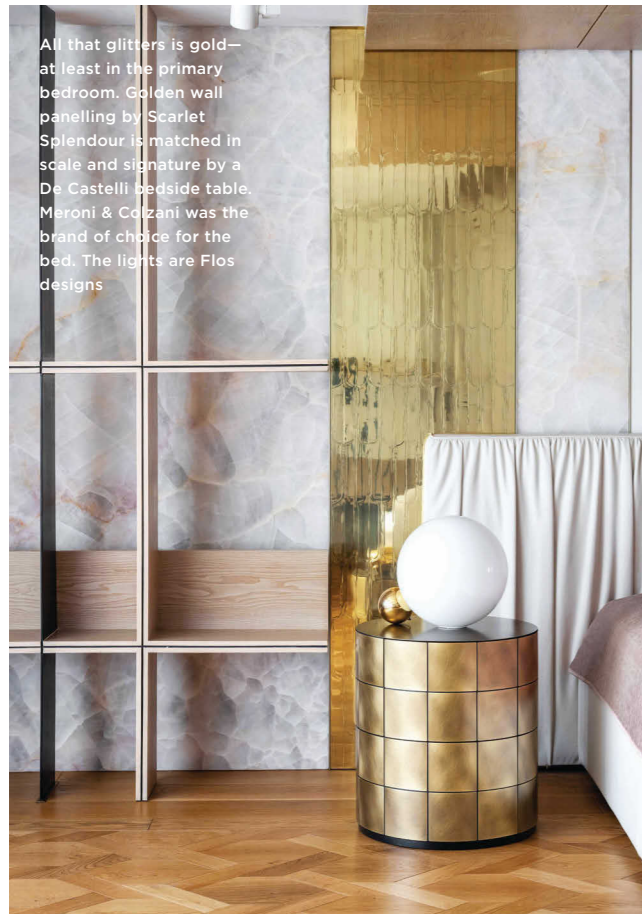
In many ways, the home is one with the elements. The breeze and sunshine meet halfway and there's a lightness of being that pervades every bit of the interior. For all the challenges that came before it, not one, it seems, lived to tell the tale. The only stories here are happy ones—scripted, evidently, by the architects and client in equal spirit. ♦ [shroffleon.com](http://shroffleon.com)



This corner of the living room moonlights as a speakeasy. A brass bar by LOCO Design lines one wall, ceding the spotlight to the Poltrona Frau table and Cassina chairs. A Bomma pendant haloes the setting. The teal armchair is a Tacchini find



The salon, located downstairs, is a pastiche of peach and gold. The wall light is by Aromas Del Campo



All that glitters is gold—at least in the primary bedroom. Golden wall panelling by Scarlet Splendour is matched in scale and signature by a De Castelli bedside table. Maroni & Cozzani was the brand of choice for the bed. The lights are Flos designs



The stairwell delivers an object lesson in black and white



A glass partition demarcates the living room from the dining area beyond. The latter is enhanced by glass pendants by Giopato & Coombes, a table by Vincenzo De Cotiis, and Gubi chairs. The sofa is by Baxter

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A guest bedroom, situated upstairs, is anchored by a Novamobili bed and a Baxter nightstand. The lamp is a Lee Broom novelty

**SHROFFLEÓN** is a Mumbai-based, award-winning multidisciplinary practice led by architects Kayzad Shroff and María Isabel Jiménez León. Celebrated for its boutique approach, the studio is well-known for taking on projects selectively, cherry-picking those that offer an opportunity for intuitive exploration, artistic collaboration and unending discovery. Its portfolio comprises residential, hospitality and commercial projects, product design, and architectural installations.



Kayzad Shroff and María Isabel Jiménez León

**WHAT'S ONE THING THAT DIDN'T GO ACCORDING TO PLAN?**

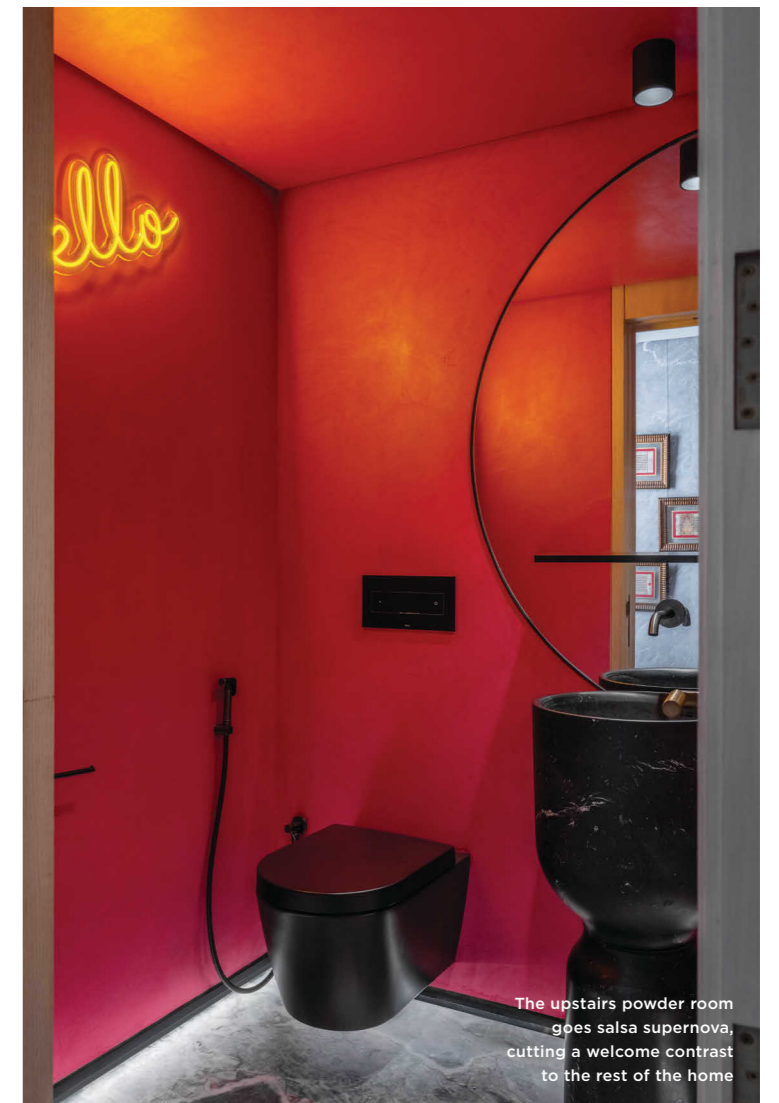
The height of the ceilings! Since the slab above was crumbling, we had to reinforce it and therefore the air-conditioning had to be reworked. Due to this we lost a few inches in the overall height.

**ONE THING YOU'D REDO IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME?**

We used Alexa to control automation and it needs to be reconfigured every few months. Not as smooth and easy for the clients as we thought it would be.

**THE BIGGEST SPLURGE?**

Vincenzo de Cottis aluminium and Murano glass dining table. One of a kind...it was sourced from Carpenters Workshop Gallery in NYC.



The upstairs powder room goes salsa supernova, cutting a welcome contrast to the rest of the home