

# MADE TO ORDER

With bespoke accents, custom furniture and perfectly tailored upholstery, this Mumbai apartment by Pan Design Studio is a deeply personalised haven.

**WORDS** VAISHNAVI NAYEL TALAWADEKAR

**PHOTOS** KUBER SHAH

**STYLING** SAMIR WADEKAR



Concealing the television in the living room is a bespoke shutter that masquerades as an artwork. To its left stands a louvred prayer unit. The lights are from Jade Design House

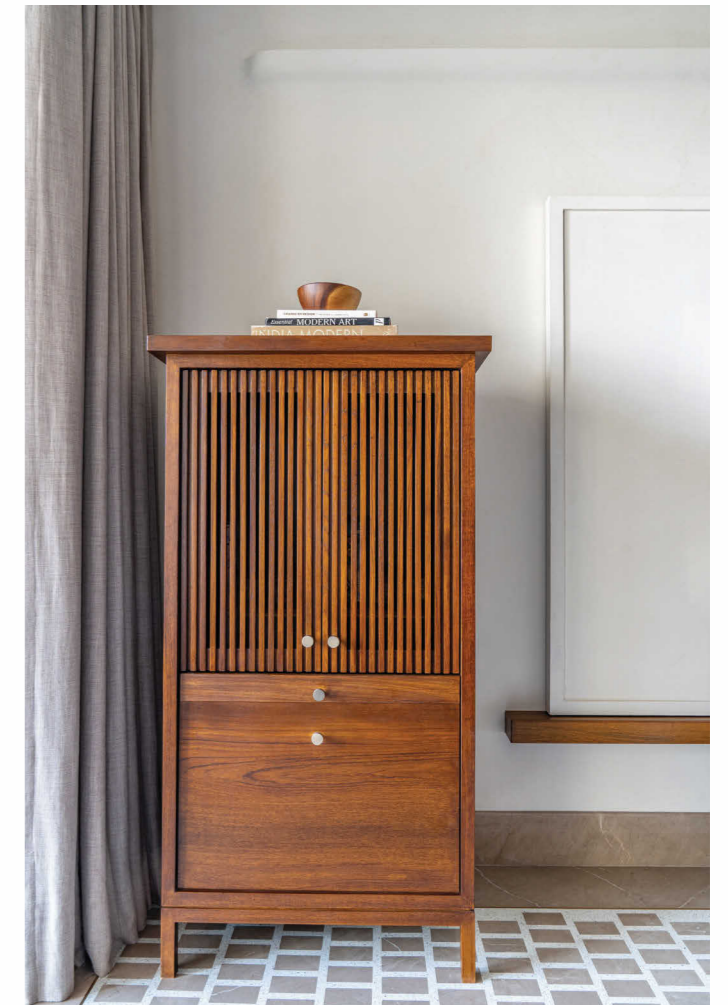
With a breakfast counter and curvilinear chairs, the open kitchen doubles as a cosy brunch station; (OPPOSITE) A louvred cabinet houses the temple, while blending seamlessly into the furniture scheme



**B**havya Parekh and Nirav Nirmal, interior designers and co-founders of Pan Design Studio, are no strangers to carte blanche briefs. So when a 50-something bachelor, a pharmaceutical entrepreneur whose office they had previously designed, approached them once more to facelift his new, 750-square-foot home, the brief—or lack thereof—was an opportunity too good to pass up. “Since we had collaborated before, the client was sure of our design language and style. He was comfortable giving us free rein,” says Bhavya. The design language in question is one that he and Nirav have carefully honed over the years—one that nods to Mumbai’s post-modern past, while embracing clean lines and minimalism.

Though the pair was left to their own devices, the client did italicise some particulars. “He was keen on sketching out every detail on paper,” recalls Nirav, adding that although their aesthetic sensibilities aligned from the outset, the process helped everyone stay clued in at every stage. What was perhaps most remarkable, he and Bhavya agree, was that although the home was limited in size, it was never echoed in the budget. “The rationale behind selecting a compact house was the want for lower maintenance. The client was clear that he’d rather put the money in his lifestyle than in real estate,” says Bhavya.

Glimmers of postmodern Mumbai appear throughout the home, exactly as the designers had imagined—square-panelled teak wood moulding in the primary bedroom, a louvred cabinet in the living room, and curvilinear stools along the kitchen island, classic cases in point. Aesthetic considerations aside, the client was particular about upping the functional quotient by several notches. In the bathroom, he proposed two napkin rings; in the wardrobes, he requested separate sections for ties, suits and watches. The ideas were great for function; not so much for form. No matter. The solution, the designers quickly learned, lay in custom-making all the accessories. And so, door knobs were conjured up from scratch, wardrobes were fitted with perfectly shaped cubbies, and monolithic sinks with



sleek ring holders were made to order.

There’s something remarkably zen about the finishes. The floor is hushed by beige Italian marble while the walls exhale an airy lime plaster. Likewise, the ceilings wear a light coat of white concrete. Against the cool, clean shell, wooden accents lend a dose of warmth, as do the assortment of gilded accents. And yet, for Bhavya and Nirav, the standout feature is the Scarpa terrazzo headboard in the primary bedroom. “Each piece of marble was individually cut and assembled,” says Nirav. “Everything was cast in situ. Despite the challenges, it turned out great—it’s no doubt the home’s crowning glory.” ♦ @pan\_designstudio

The Scarpa terrazzo headboard in the primary bedroom is a work of art created by master artisans. The bed, side tables and bench are from Alsorg India



The guest bedroom brims with old-world charm. The bed, nightstand and mirror are from Alsorg India, while the table lamp is from The Hesperus



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The tour de force of the primary bathroom is the monolithic granite basin by The Stone Casa. The fittings are by Brizo

