

BETWEEN STROKE AND SEA

In this sea-facing Mumbai apartment by Shabnam Gupta of The Orange Lane, the art and outdoors take turns seizing the spotlight

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PHOTOS KUBER SHAH

The den is straight out of an exotic palace of yore. A Sakti Burman artwork shares the spotlight with a sculpture by Jitesh Kallat. The MyHome Collection sofa is complemented by a Peacock Life coffee table and echoed below by a carpet by Jaipur Rugs. The candle holder, tray, glass pumpkin and tiny dog are all Peacock Life novelties



The living room is bejewelled with novelties, chief among them a chandelier and wall sconce by Eichholtz, a Brabbu console and a coffee table from Cattelan Italia. Beside the Gallotti & Radice chaise sits a navy blue sofa by Flou. Between them is a Peacock Life side table, atop which rests a wooden lion also by the same brand. A Jaipur Rugs carpet sheathes the floor. The artwork is an S. H. Raza original.

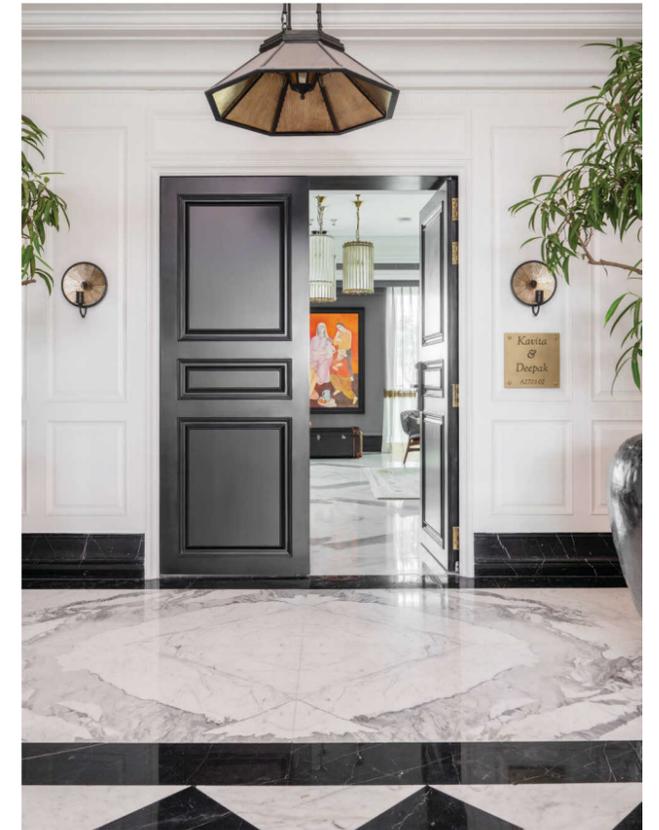


Interior designer Shabnam Gupta recalls many details from that first visit, but none more distinctly than the view that greeted her when she stepped inside. “We were enthralled,” recalls the founder and principal of The Orange Lane of the skyrise Mumbai apartment in question. “We could see the city, the mangroves and the sea. It was a 180-degree view.” What she also saw, in due course, was the potential to mirror that magic indoors. The clients, a well-travelled couple with a young child, had a sizeable art collection—one so impressive that Shabnam saw an opportunity to match, if not surmount, the vista by giving it equal pride of place.

So, began an exercise in tactful retrofitting, with each room designed around a specific artwork. An S. H. Raza became the centrepiece of the living room, while the dining room was enlivened with a scarlet Sakti Burman. Just as Krishen Khanna took centre stage in the primary suite, a vibrant Shiv Kumar Soni seized the spotlight in the son’s bedroom. A smorgasbord of contemporary, classical and commissioned pieces lent the home the spirit of an enchanting gallery, captivating the eye at every turn.

The challenge lay in finding a middle ground: the home would be an art haven, yes, but it would also have to be able to sunset from coffee to cocktails. “They love to entertain and the space had to (simultaneously) serve as a party pad, a home office and a place to unwind after a long day,” notes Shabnam, of the family who imagined the home as a calming antidote to their hectic lifestyle. And so, she designed a space for each function: an office for ruminating, a hand-sculpted marble bar for entertaining, and a violet den for curling up with a book or winding down with a coffee. No two rooms did she design alike, although she did maintain a theme of brooding tones, gilded objects and luxurious furniture that gives each space the illusion of belonging, at least metaphysically, to a separate otherworldly realm.

For the couple today, the home fulfils many roles. It’s a place where they can host or hibernate, and enjoy an equal experience on either side of the threshold. Most evenings, when they’re home, they like to unwind on the balcony, where the sunsets, they insist, are particularly magical. With the mangroves ahead, lush plants around, and the sun overhead, it exists in the slipstream of the surrounding hubbub. It’s a place where time, finally, stands still. ♦ shabnamgupta.com



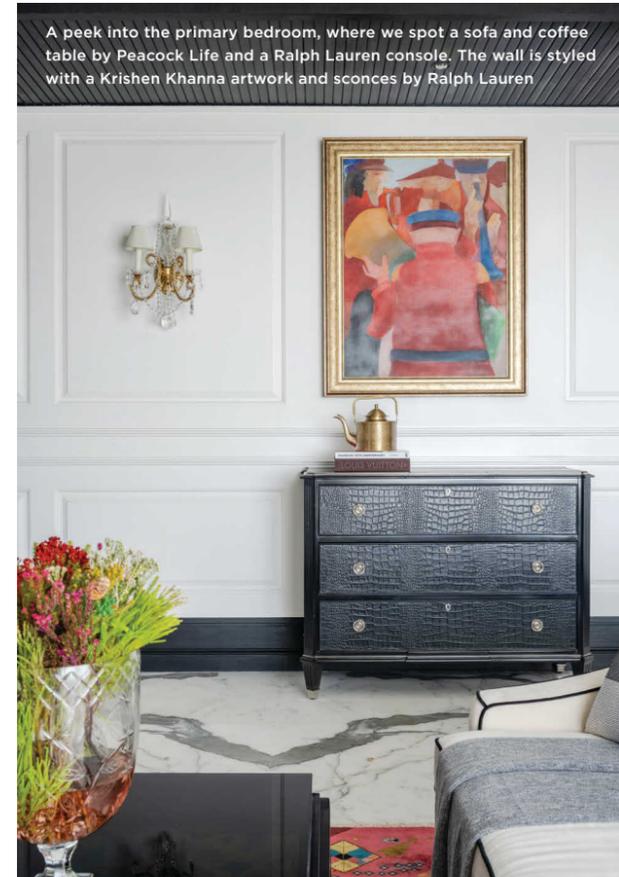
The lift lobby is a monochrome jewel box with little in the way of decor. The pendant and sconce are Ralph Lauren designs.

Easy evenings call for some moonshine (of either kind) at the bar, which is haloed by stub lights by Ralph Lauren. The art prints are from Visage Studio. Brabbu stools underpin the marble counter





The dining room is electrified by a scarlet M. F. Hussain artwork, beneath which sits a brass-finish console by Peacock Life. An Eichholtz chandelier crowns the Porada dining table, which is surrounded by chairs by Cattelan Italia



A peek into the primary bedroom, where we spot a sofa and coffee table by Peacock Life and a Ralph Lauren console. The wall is styled with a Krishen Khanna artwork and sconces by Ralph Lauren



The primary walk-in closet recalls a 1960s Hollywood vanity. It features a chandelier and armchair by Ralph Lauren, wallpaper from Asian Paints's Sabyasachi range and a Jaipur Rugs carpet



The home office is in an Egyptian blue, where we spot an armchair, table lamp and pendant by Ralph Lauren. The wall covering is from Elemento Wallpapers



The sofa, coffee table and decor in the primary bedroom are from Peacock Life. A Jaipur Rugs carpet adds a bold pop of colour

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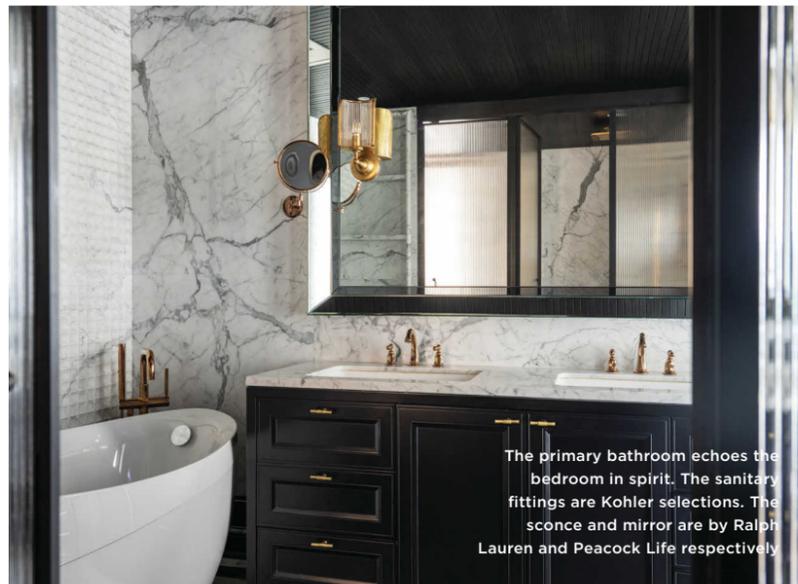
DESIGNER TO THE STARS SHABNAM GUPTA is a product and interior specialist whose eclectic signature is well-regarded in the Indian design firmament. Her interior design firm, The Orange Lane, and decor range, The Peacock Life, serve as playgrounds for her creativity, though her magic touch extends to styling, decor, and custom furniture and lighting. She has worked on a bevy of celebrity homes, popular restaurant chains and well-known hospitality projects.

WHAT'S ONE THING THAT DIDN'T GO ACCORDING TO PLAN IN THIS DESIGN?
The staff and laundry room did not go as per the plan as we had earlier planned a bigger space, some of which was used for utilities and the kitchen.

THIS HOME AS A POPULAR MOVIE TITLE?
Tomorrow Never Dies.

WHAT'S ONE THING YOU'D REDO IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME?
I would like to add a laundry room and a bigger utility room for sure.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST SPLURGE WHILE DESIGNING THIS HOME?
We picked furniture from top Italian brands, and this was the biggest splurge but also a sensible one as it has added the oomph factor to the space.



The primary bathroom echoes the bedroom in spirit. The sanitary fittings are Kohler selections. The sconce and mirror are by Ralph Lauren and Peacock Life respectively



Black and burgundy, respectively conjured by a wall covering by Elementto Wallpaper and black paint, give the powder room an imperial air. The Kohler basin is overarched by a custom mirror by Peacock Life. The sconce and candle stand are by Ralph Lauren and Peacock Life respectively