

NO WALLS ATTACHED

Inside Jwala Gutta and Vishnu Vishal's calm yet colourful Kokapet home, designed by Thomas Parambil

WORDS VAISHNAVI NAYEL TALAWADEKAR PHOTOS NAYAN SONI STYLING FYMIN NAIF

The living room feels like a holiday in the woods, with forest-green seating from Creatomy setting the tone

Another view of the living room, with bold pops of colour offsetting the sand-toned shell. A Magari armchair offers company to furniture from Creatomy, while a rug from Carpet Kingdom brings the playfully geometric scheme together

There's a particular kind of panic that sets in when your architect knocks down half the walls in your house and you show up for a site visit expecting rooms and find, instead, air. That's exactly what happened to badminton champion Jwala Gutta and actor Vishnu Vishal, who, mid-construction, looked around their Hyderabad apartment and asked, in uncanny unison, whether they had any walls left.

It was, by all accounts, a beautifully engineered leap of faith, and luckily, the man asking them to take it remained entirely unruffled. Having designed for the family since 2022, Thomas Parambil of the Bengaluru practice Thomas Parambil Architects, arrived already fluent in their taste, their quirks, and their tolerance for a little chaos mid-build.

Ask what kind of house they had in mind, and the answer has less to do with square footage than mood. "Something that reflected our personalities and was warm, welcoming, and fun," says Vishnu, describing a space built for hosting without leaning too stiff or formal. The brief that followed was equally unfussy: open and expressive, a colourful departure from their hushed Chennai home.

The location, as it turns out, made its own case too. "We were drawn to that first. Kokapet is growing rapidly, and we loved the idea of living in a neighbourhood with so much potential," says Jwala, adding that being centrally located meant family and friends could drop by anytime.

Thomas's usual calling card is restraint: clean lines, quiet palettes, and understated design that photographs like a held breath. This house asked for something else entirely, and translating "fun and vibrant" into square footage came with its own wrinkles. Layering colour, texture, art, and material without tipping into visual noise meant calibrating every proportion by hand. Restraint, this time, wasn't about doing less, it was about making more feel effortless, a philosophy that reaches its peak, quite literally, overhead.

Because the home runs on full automation, every wire and conduit needed somewhere to hide, and for a while, mid-build, "the ceiling looked like a server room," jokes Thomas. Jwala and Vishnu couldn't quite picture how all that visible chaos would vanish. It did. What's left is a ceiling so clean it gives away nothing about the complexity humming above it.

For the couple, the heart of the home isn't any one showstopper space but the easy overlap of living, dining, and balcony: the zone where everyone ends up, whether it's a full house of guests or just family winding down. "They offer the flexibility for each of us to do our own thing while still feeling connected," says Jwala of the sometimes-private, sometimes-not layout.

It's a neat trick, considering the house began with more questions than walls. Between that panicked site visit and the finished home, Thomas gave Jwala and Vishnu exactly what they'd asked for: a home with plenty of personality, not one ounce of formality, and just enough structure holding it all together. ♦ tparchitects.in

A striped carpet from Carpet Kingdom and deep-red theatre curtains turn the media room into a little slice of cinematic magic



In the dining room, a gilt-edged dining table and burgundy chairs from Creatomy sit alongside a rug from Carpet Kingdom, bringing a warm, elegant feel to the space



BENGALURU-BASED THOMAS PARAMBIL ARCHITECTS, HEADED BY PRINCIPAL THOMAS PARAMBIL, builds spaces that respond to how people actually live, not just how they look in photos. The studio's process is rigorous but never rigid, always hunting for a sharper solution, and led by the client's personality as much as their brief. The studio's portfolio spans homes, hospitality, and commercial projects across India, each one built on precise detailing and a genuine partnership with clients, many of whom return, project after project.

IF THIS HOME HAD A THEME SONG, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
Watermelon Man by Herbie Hancock. It's a happy tune!

WHAT IS THE MOST UNDERRATED DETAIL IN THE HOUSE?
 Colour. Each room has its own palette, but it had to feel cohesive so we wove the shades together through materials, furniture, and finishes.

WHICH ROOM DO YOU THINK SECRETLY STEALS THE SHOW?
 The media room. It's bold, moody, and has a totally different look from the rest of the house.

IF THIS HOME COULD SPEAK, WHAT'S THE FIRST THING IT WOULD SAY?
 That calm and colourful can coexist.

WHAT'S ONE DESIGN RULE YOU HAPPILY BROKE HERE?
 That restrained doesn't mean colourless. The hard part wasn't adding colour in as much as making sure nothing felt out of place. It was a good stretch for us, yet still felt very much "us" in the end.



The guest bedroom became something of an art project, thanks to the hand-painted pendant by Thomas and his team. The bed is from Creatomy, with a rug from Carpet Kingdom grounding the space (OPPOSITE PAGE) From left: The balcony is an oasis in the sky, with creepers spilling from the ceiling grilles, seating from Magari, and a hammer-legged stool by Nitush Aroosh; At the centre of the cherry red kids' bedroom is a bunk bed that doubles up as a desk, with drawers tucked neatly beneath each step. Furniture from Creatomy and a rug from Carpet Kingdom complete the fun

