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ELLE DECOR

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ELLE DECOR brings you in-depth articles and insights into design, architecture, decor and culture. Introducing our special contributors



BHUPAL RAMNATHKAR
UMBRELLA DESIGN

With over 25 years of a career in advertising, winning Indian and international accolades, Bhupal founded Umbrella Design in 2000. He was also the first Indian judge for the Outdoor Category at Cannes in 2006 and went on to judge the Design Category at Cannes in 2013.

Design to me is... Oxygen

A fond monsoon memory... Working under my umbrella

A quote that has stayed with you...

Everything is design, design is everything

In this issue, he welcomes us to his residence in Mumbai that is designed by the man himself, pg 142



HARLEEN KAUR
ZEN DESIGN STUDIO

Over the past decade, Harleen has transformed more than 100 homes. Her passion lies in creating beautiful, functional spaces that reflect each homeowner's unique personality. She is dedicated to delivering tailored design solutions, ensuring every project feels like a reflection of its inhabitants.

Design to me is... Creativity, functionality and expression through spaces

I'm currently reading... Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom

A monsoon getaway I'd like to visit... Bali

In this issue, she takes us into a restrained yet resplendent Kolkata home, pg 152



PREETI MAHENDRA
THE LOFT INTERIORS

With a portfolio spanning modern urban lofts, rustic cottages, farmhouses, minimalist offices and lush outdoor spaces, Preeti's work reflects her commitment to personalised, artistic and innovative design. The Loft Interiors offers curated collections, all with hands-on services that resonate with the patrons' preferences.

On my bucket list... To see Rome on foot
I'm currently reading... The Nine Unknown by Talbot Mundy

A monsoon getaway I'd like to visit... Meghalaya (again)

In this issue, she takes us into a restrained yet resplendent Kolkata home, pg 152



SILKI AGRAWAL
STYLIST & FASHION DESIGNER

A gifted home stylist and fashion designer, Silki's extensive travels around the world have endowed her with a broad perspective and global sensibilities. She has worked on several high-end residential projects and the Belgadia Palace as a creative consultant.

On my bucket list... Japan

A monsoon essential... A colourful and patterned umbrella

I'm currently reading... Ikigai by Francesc Miralles and Hector Garcia

A monsoon getaway I'd like to visit... Coorg

In this issue, she takes us into a restrained yet resplendent Kolkata home, pg 152



ANAND DESHMUKH
MIND MANIFESTATION

After completing his Masters' education in Singapore, Anand founded Mind Manifestation in 2014 in collaboration with Chetan Lahoti. Their practice has developed a portfolio with a varied range of projects in architecture and interior design. They believe in creating spaces that combine minimalism, opulence, simplicity and elegance.

Design to me is... Turning an "oops" into an "aha"

I'm currently Reading... Subtitles!

A monsoon getaway I'd like to visit... Dolomites

In this issue, he brings us into a Mumbai home inspired by the sand and seas, pg 162



CHETAN LAHOTI
MIND MANIFESTATION

Post gaining valuable experience in Delhi, Chetan focussed all his energies in laying the foundation for Mind Manifestation in 2014 in Pune, in collaboration with Anand Deshmukh. Their practice has now completed a decade and is known for its unique approach to every project that they undertake.

On their bucket list... Skydiving

A monsoon essential... Trek and tea

Design to me is... I am still exploring

What am I currently reading...

My Gita by Devdutt Pattanaik

In this issue, he brings us into a Mumbai home inspired by the sand and seas, pg 162



Gentle arches and lime-plastered walls imbue the dining room with the air of a meditative sanctum. In the centre is a bespoke dining table with a terrazzo top and legs embellished with fluted ashwood. Sinag Easy Dining Chairs by Dtale Modern lend to the zen setting, as does the This and That slender metal console with an artefact by JOSMO. The floor wears terrazzo with brass inlay
FACING PAGE It appears as if the living room could have been born of the shoreline. A curvilinear sofa by Kanchi echoes the tide, as does the wavy-edged centre table from Bombay Design Lab's Melt collection



IT'S A SHORE THING

If there were ever such a thing as a shoreline crafted by hand, it would look something like this sea-facing Mumbai eyrie by Mind Manifestation

TEXT BY VAISHNAVI NAYEL TALAWADEKAR
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SURYAN//DANG



FROM TOP A bird's eye view of the staircase with streams of bespoke terrazzo in aubergine hues; The black sculpture and wicker baskets are from The White Teak Company and Altro respectively; The tour de force of the den (situated upstairs) where the architects played with Banswara marble inlay flooring. A Woodage sofa offers a tranquil perch on busy days. The side table is from Furnishiaa while the vase is an Altro design FACING PAGE The living room carries a subterranean aura. The only exception to the neutral palette is the chequered chair by This and That. A Longfellow floor lamp by Ikaigai stands sentinel in one corner while a Pinstripe Lamp by Ravi Vazirani Design Studio sits atop a This and That side table. The functional lights in the home are by Abby Lighting





FROM TOP With beige used across walls, counters and tiles, the kitchen cedes the spotlight to the views. Terrazzo with brass inlay enhances the floor. The tiles are from Piccolo's Mosaics series; The floors are finished in terrazzo with brass inlay; Wall art by Nimrat Kaur Narang in the kid's room peeks out into the corridor
FACING PAGE Spherical IKEA lights masquerade as art in the living room. A scalloped cornice-style motif, sculpted with Plaster of Paris and finished with lime plaster, gives the wall a playful spin



"We imagined the interior as a sun-warmed beach, like something the tide could have washed ashore"



The thing about sea-facing abodes, as some designers might argue, is that attempting to equal or exceed the view is a rather impractical folly. So impractical, that when it came to designing a coastal eyrie in Mumbai's Lower Parel, architects Anand Deshmukh and Chetan Lahoti of Pune-based multidisciplinary practice Mind Manifestation decided to simply opt out of the said zero-sum game by extending the view indoors. "We imagined the interior as a sun-warmed beach, like something the tide could have washed ashore," says Anand. True to the pair's vision, the 45th-storey, 3,000 sq ft duplex seemingly levitates between the sky and sea, somehow, at once, evading the currents of heightened activity and existing in a slipstream of its own. There's a subterranean quality to the material palette – think floaty hues, earthy textures, wooden decks à la beachside boardwalk – as if the sea itself swallowed the home whole and surfaced it back to life.

For the homeowners, entrepreneur Vedansh Gupta and his wife Priya, a fashion designer, the transformation of the home with four bedrooms and five bathrooms was rooted in a plural sense of purpose. Creating a beautiful interior was one thing but as parents of twin toddlers and a rambunctious pup, maintaining it was quite another. This meant only one thing: coming up with clever substitutes to conventional solutions, starting with the floor, which the duo gave pride of place with sweeps of sun-kissed terrazzo to eliminate the need for any spill-prone, dander-collecting rugs (a mandate they were particular about). Equally important, if not more, was the safe (and strategic) placement of furniture and easily cleanable surfaces. Be that as it may, nothing here feels static. There's a sense of fluidity between spaces, a legerdemain the architects achieved by enhancing volumes in one way or another. Entrances and alcoves were softened with curves and arches. The walls were calmed with smooth lime plaster. Treads and risers received dazzling streams of terrazzo. Even the terrace, part outdoors, was treated with the same shimmering stone as the interior. The furniture wasn't exempt from the deepwater design ethos, as evidenced by the wavy-edged centre table and elliptical side tables in the living room, designed by Bombay Design Lab and This and That respectively. Sea-inspired tidal contours grace the dining area too. In a move that might seem counterintuitive but which the architects confirm is patently not, the layout on the lower floor was divided into equal parts interior and exterior.

The triple-height terrace is characterised by driftwood-inspired decks with Bambufy cladding, terrazzo flooring, planters and cosy al fresco spaces. Plants from Corona Greens inspire a mini Eden. A river of terrazzos appear to flow out of the living room and rise up the stairs

Not that you'd care to notice thanks to meandering spaces that spill onto either side of the threshold. The triple-height terrace, driftwood-style wooden flooring and bouquet of al fresco dining spaces are each a case in point – there's no saying where the indoors meet the outdoors or whether they do at all.

If the lower floor is the seashore, the upper level is the briny deep. It's calmer, bluer, quieter and as Anand puts a finer point on the subject, "it feels like it's underwater." Meditative it may be but it's also highly functional, with three bedrooms, each outfitted in mellow hues and a den that double-hats as a study. Admittedly for the architects, it wasn't all plain sailing, not least the triple-height terrace, which, when combined with the sprawling living areas, for better or worse, seemed to appear a tad too vast. So followed an exercise in taming its proportions. In came tall plants. Up went artworks. Down went flagstone flooring. There were functional considerations too, such as ensuring proper ventilation and adequate weatherproofing while maintaining a well-ordered visual and physical transition between spaces. The result is a space that lends itself to the view on either side of the threshold and gives itself and its inhabitants enough room to breathe – a rare luxury in a megalopolis like Mumbai. But, as Anand points out, the real luxury is that there's room for yet more breathing, yet more growing, yet more living. "It was designed to evolve with them," says Chetan about the abode, which he and Anand tailored to adapt with the family, not just in this season of life, but also in all the seasons after. ♦

