

ROOTED IN HERITAGE

This Mumbai apartment by Purple Backyard brims with botanical prints, natural stones and free-flowing spaces that nod to faraway lands

WORDS VAISHNAVI NAYEL TALAWADEKAR

PHOTOGRAPHS ISHITA SITWALA



The partition screens in the living room are emblazoned with botanical motifs, while the wallpaper behind the sofa feels like mulmul to the touch. The sofa and coffee table are from Rocking Chair, the side table is from Sarita Handa, while the carpet is from Rugberry

The guest bedroom is lent character by blush accents and English country-inspired artworks



With Lippan reliefs, characterful textiles and an array of natural stones, Mulbagh could easily be a Rajasthani courtyard dwelling from centuries past. “The interior is a pristine reimagination of Jaipur,” says Kumpal Vaid—founder and principal designer of Purple Backyard—of the Mumbai skyscraper apartment she was tasked to redesign.

For Kumpal—who was enlisted by the owners, Zeel and Mayur Shethia, to tailor their new home for their family of three generations—the allusion to Jaipur is of special significance. “My forefathers are from Rajasthan and I couldn’t help but draw inspiration from my own Rajasthani heritage. I imagined the handicrafts and cotton gardens and stonework of the state coming to life within these walls,” she avers.

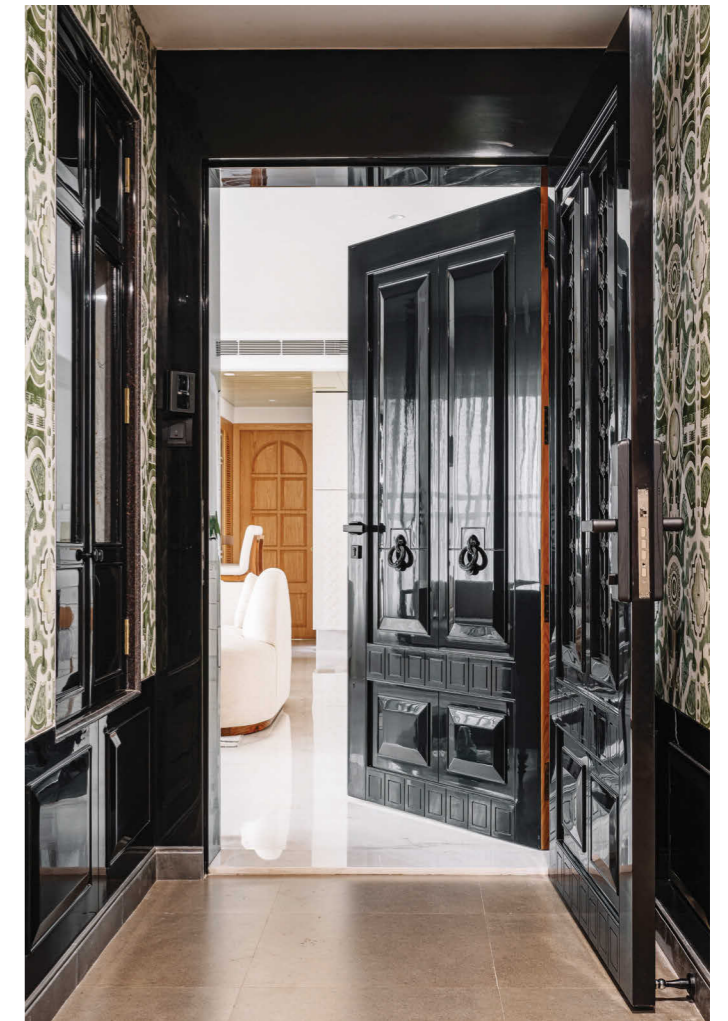
In keeping with the Shethias’ minimalist ethos, Kumpal skewed the design language towards neutral tones and simple forms and finishes. “We wanted to recreate the experience of a dreamy cotton garden. And so, we elevated the shell with natural shapes, prints and patterns,” says the designer, whose team also included Snehal Punamiya, Riddhi Rathod and Kunal Pawar. True to her words, the partition screens in the living room are emblazoned with botanical motifs, while the wallpaper behind the sofa feels like mulmul to the touch. Likewise, the bedrooms nod to garden curiosities, with the master suite featuring a headboard fashioned from stone.

The biggest challenge, Kumpal admits, was ensuring that the needs of all members were met. “Being that it was a multi-generational family, we had to make sure that the design was age-agnostic. And so, we came up with the idea of introducing transitional spaces. The common areas, for instance, open up into the kids’ room, which in turn, opens up into the study before flowing back into the living room,” she says. In the same vein, the kitchen also follows a semi-open layout. “The Shethias are a close-knit bunch, and enjoy spending

time together. This meant that the spaces needed to blend into each other while also holding their own.” Kumpal cites the example of the kids’ room, which, although thoughtfully designed for its pint-sized occupants, melds equally into the overarching aesthetic.

For Zeel and Mayur, the home is a lesson in overcoming the odds. “It was a lockdown exercise that entailed all the emotions between exhilaration and exhaustion. Given the situation at the time, we had no idea how it would go,” they share. Admittedly for the family, however, the final result is better than they could ever have imagined. ♦

purplebackyard.com



A black lacquered front door and garden-inspired wallpaper serve as calming preludes to the home’s interior

“We wanted to recreate the experience of a dreamy cotton garden. And so, we elevated the shell with natural shapes, prints and patterns”



“The idea was for all the spaces to blend together. And so, the dining space could not be too flamboyant,” says Kumpal, who embraced a muted palette for the realm. The dining chairs are from Magnolia, while the artworks were sourced from Altrove



The parents' bedroom is practical and pared-back with light tones and natural grains



The guest bedroom is characterised by light-toned wooden finishes

“Being that it was a multi-generational family, we had to make sure that the design was age-agnostic. And so, we came up with the idea of introducing transitional spaces”



The kids' room channels a whimsical maze, with multiple entry and exit points. The chairs are from Neeknots