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**A holiday home
in Goa and an
apartment in
London designed by
Rajiv Saini**

Brighter than Bright



Farah Ahmed and Dhaval Shellugar of FADD Studio work their magic to create an exclusive space for a young couple in Bengaluru, decked in cool colours and quirky elements. The home is a trendy haven where each corner radiates positive energy and displays a touch of sophistication.



TEXT: KANUPRIYA GARG
 PHOTOGRAPHS: SHAMANTH PATIL,
 COURTESY THE DESIGNERS



Bright, vivacious, and vibrant are some of the adjectives which come to my mind when I start to describe this project undertaken by Farah and Dhaval in Bengaluru. The space is lively but at the same time subtle in its own ways, with glimpses of youthfulness floating all around.

'The inputs that we received from both our clients – Puja and Pallav Nadhani – were pretty diverse. Puja, being a fashion designer, has a creative bent of mind and Pallav is more analytical. Puja loves blues, whites and greys and wanted a young, experimental home minus the usual earthy and rustic elements. We couldn't have asked for anything better,' says Farah. 'We drew our design inspiration from the client's



The contemporary living space is dressed primarily in blues, whites and vintage floral prints. The walls adorn a cool azure with white paneling and the room doors are painted in powder blue to impart a soothing, light and fresh feel to the whole space.



A white crawling sofa with royal blue upholstery stands against a wall clad in a royal blue and beige patterned wallpaper in the foyer leading up to the living and dining room.



A shaded blue bookshelf provides a perfect backdrop for the oak dining table with bright blue upholstered chairs and antique temple bells (the dining lights).

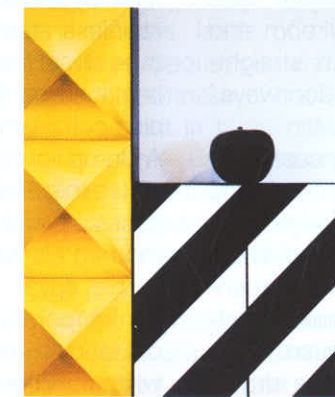


vibrant personality but if we were to name one starting point it would be the interiors of "Fortnum and Mason" in London. Their simple wall paneling inspired us and from there on other things started to take shape on our drawing board,' she adds.

The apartment is located in one of the older building complexes of Bengaluru called 'Acropolis'. The original layout housed three bedrooms with curved walls and marble flooring along with arched hallways. Walls were beige and the rooms had bulky wardrobes that stuck out and made the space look small and cluttered. There was an enclosed study by the living room which further took away from the openness.

'While modifying the layout, we knew we had to open up the area by creating smart spaces that would have a purpose. First we removed the curvatures, the arch of the foyer-to-living entry, the curved wall

Behind the sofa in the living room is a bar fabricated in oak with simple blue chairs.



'The client loves blues, whites and greys and wanted a young, experimental home minus the usual earthy and rustic elements. We couldn't have asked for anything better,' says Farah.





Louved white closets with mirrors on alternate shutters are provided for functionality in the master bedroom.

between the master and the adjoining bedroom and instead went with straight-line hallways and doorways,' says Farah.

A Persian blue, castle-like door guides one inside the apartment. The foyer that leads to the living and dining room needs a special mention as it is the most arresting area in the house. Once inside, the eyes are drawn to a white crawling sofa with royal blue upholstery which stands against a wall clad in a royal blue and beige patterned wallpaper. Three different but subtle wallpapers from the same family were used on the wall and ceiling to create a lovely asymmetric patterned line that is continued on to the cement

floor by means of polished stainless steel. An old vintage closet (meant for shoes) is placed on the right which also complements the door. A slump light in acrylic completes this area which showcases a blend of classic and modern elements.

This foyer leads into a contemporary living space dressed primarily in blues, whites and greys. The walls adorn a cool azure with white paneling and the room doors are painted in powder blue to impart a soothing, light and fresh feel to the whole space. A stark white Natuzzi sofa sits in front of a grey bookshelf with shutters decked in a vintage floral fabric. Brighter but similar fabric is used to beautify the two

In the master bedroom a bright yellow printed blind enhances the predominant olive wall. The designers removed the marble flooring here and replaced it with 12-ft-long white tiles which look like wooden planks.



single-seater chairs placed in front. Wooden side tables are positioned on either side of the single-seaters and a simple Lignet Roset table in the center offers versatile use with its rotating surfaces. A pink rug weaves the whole story together by picking up the colour from all the other furniture elements. Behind the sofa, is a bar fabricated in oak with simple blue chairs. On the opposite wall is a shaded blue bookshelf which provides a perfect backdrop for the oak dining table with bright blue upholstered chairs and antique temple bells (the dining lights which are white and patina) – needless to say, the clients' favourite colour is blue!

A narrow passage, a gallery of sorts, leads one to the three bedrooms which echo the softness of the living area but in three different colours – lilac, olive and beige. The walls of the bedrooms are solid and curtains are printed in floral and vintage prints.

In the master bedroom, the designers demolished the curved wall and created more straight-line walls to be more functional. They removed the marble floor and replaced it with 12-ft-long white tiles which look like wooden planks. In all, the space looked much bigger and brighter. 'In the master bedroom which is olive, we have given louvred white closets with



A second, smaller guest bedroom encloses the bed and closets as one unit to maximise space.



The powder room, in contrast to the whole house, is dark. The client wanted it to be one space that was more sensual.

mirrors on alternate shutters. A bright yellow printed blind enhances the olive wall,' adds Farah. The floor is done in white wooden tiles which are slightly different from the ones used in the living room. The bathroom has lovely distressed tiles in similar colors with the luxurious stone series from Villeroy and Bosh.

One of the guest rooms is in lavender with a floral cur-

tain and simple beige upholstered bed and a lacquered study. The flooring here is a light brown laminate. The bathroom continues in lavender and gold mosaic with a grey floor.

A second, smaller guest bedroom encloses the bed and closets as one unit to maximise space.

The powder room, in contrast to the whole house, is dark. The client wanted it to



The bigger guest room is lavender with a floral curtain and simple beige upholstered bed and a lacquered study.



be one space that was more sensual. The tiles are charcoal with some bronze geometric pattern and resemble 'Zari' work. The vanity is asymmetrical and has three hanging lights with a bronze framed mirror.

The balcony adjoining the living room has a circular mosaic floor which looks like candy! The bench placed there is fabricated from an old surf board and is bought from a store that refurbishes old items to give them a new use.

Furniture style in the whole space is mostly contemporary. The artefacts used are a combination of items Puja has picked up over the years during her travels and a few items bought during

the design process. 'Puja was not keen to just go out and buy matching items because she believed that it would be too impersonal. She wanted each artefact to have a story of "where and how". So the house, in terms of accessories, is a work-in-progress that will evolve with her travels and her collectibles,' says Farah.

As the ceiling height was very low, the designers stuck to mostly architectural lights and lamp shades/reading lights. The only decorative lights are in the foyer and dining.

The designers have tried to make furniture as functional as possible. A few instances we have are the shoe cupboard at the entrance, the

'While modifying the old layout, we removed the curvatures and instead went with straight-line hallways and doorways,' says Farah.

interior



bookshelf which doubles up as a white board scribble area and a table, the multi-coloured consoles, beds with pull-out drawers, and even the AC is housed in an interesting louvered cabinet on the back balcony.

As we know, every execution comes with its own set of challenges. The biggest challenge and the most time consuming one which Farah and Dhaval faced was of automation. 'We sometimes joke that there is more wire than there is wood in this apartment because of the number of things that have to be connected and automated,' Farah jokes.

At the end of the day, each individual wants to come home to a space that translates into their vision of a 'dream home'. I guess Farah and Dhaval have given the Nadhanis exactly what they visualised. This abode sparkles without being overly pretentious, making all visitors take notice and remark – Bravo! 🎉



FACT FILE

PROJECT TYPE: Residence

AREA: 2,846 sq ft

CLIENT: Puja Nadhani

DESIGN TEAM: Farah Ahmed, Dhaval Shellugar and Aashitha Reddy

CIVIL AND INTERIOR WORKS CONTRACTORS: Dreamwork Interiors

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