

# NEW FRONTIER

Photography / Gokul Rao Kadam \* Words / Ambica Sharma

Designers Farah and Dhaval of FADD, create a vibrant home using audacious colours for an architect and his family



## HOME PROFILE

**THE OWNERS** The owners belong to a famed architecture business family of Bengaluru. They live in this beautiful eclectic home with their two teenage daughters.

**THE PROPERTY** This 7,500 sq ft property in Bengaluru is home to a four-member family. The public and common spaces of the home are on the lower level, while the private and individual spaces are on the upper levels.

## ENTRY

A dramatic entry is created by the red baroque door opening to the view of a driftwood console, placed on a black and white composite-stone floor. The wall is pandemo cement with copper studs from Greenheart Floors.

**Get the look** The console is from Cane Boutique. The composite stone is from Gravaa. The black vases are from Nicobar.

# UNUSUAL IS AN ADJECTIVE THAT IS SEEMINGLY IN EXISTENCE ONLY

to fan the fires of creativity in a designer. And, if like for Farah Ahmed Mathais and Dhaval Shellugar, of Farah and Dhaval Design (FADD), the brief for an unorthodox home design comes from owners, who are famed and senior architects, the flames are fanned fast and furious to achieve the heady heat of unique design. In this double-level, 7,500 sq ft Bengaluru home, lines, bars, grids, slits and stacks, in real and shadows conjoin with defining and stark colours of crimson, black and white. Daylight has been used as a charming design feature, casting long and short shadows as the day progresses. Farah and Dhaval say, “The couple have so much experience in the field of architecture and design, and they were open to experimentation in design and style.”

The interiors of this uber-modern unconventionally designed home are set on two axis lines—colour and form. The theatrics begin at the entrance, featuring not only a phone-booth red baroque door, but also two giant vases with tribal-art like patterns on them. These set the tone for the rest of the home—outspoken and off-beat all the way. “Interestingly enough, the genesis of this home-design is rooted in these two—the door and the giant vases. Standing to the right of the entrance was a massive column that needed to be concealed. Building closets around it or even painting it would just not cut it. So instead we made it into a sculpture. Make that two!” they laugh.

A stripe-patterned composite stone floor, mimics pathway right to the imposing driftwood console in the lobby. Here, a pandemo cement wall, with copper stud detailing forms a quiet background for the entire floor. This is also where the skylight-inspired stacked-base, staircase to the upper level, makes its appearance. Made of composite-stone and oak wood, the staircase has a balustrade that flaunts the linear shadows of the slit-style skylight. Adding charm is the support wall of the staircase that fixes focus on itself with recessed light features, copying the vertical skylight slits.

Colour, prints, feature lights and a veneer-clad partition, play crucial roles in the separation of the casual from the formal living area. An expansive space, it is dotted with reds, blacks, whites, on a grey canvas, almost turning the setting into an art installation. The spaciousness heightens the drama.

This is a surprisingly clutter-free home, considering that it is inundated with strong colours and definitive tactile patterning and visual texturing via design, materials, and the light-and-shade play. In the formal sitting area with its Moooi seating, the partition turns into a feature wall with its warm-hued niche lights. In the casual living, the

ridged design of the partition finds company in the vertical red-bar wall-light feature. The sombre and chic grey canvas of the cement walls continues into the dining area. This room is dominated by the pleated fabric lights over the extendable dining table by Eliot Keramik Drive for Cattelan Italia. Spreading cheer are the colourful Kartell dining chairs. The mezzanine enjoys direct natural light courtesy the skylight. Here, an open-shelf book-cum-show-case takes advantage of the light and creates a natural reading corner. This is a semi-public space, placed in the more private part of the home. It offers a special something to each member of the family. The mezzanine also leads to the master bedroom, their two daughters’ rooms, the family room, and finally, the terrace.

Leaving behind the drama of bold colours behind, the serene, all-white master bedroom is sprinkled with stone hues, in the form of curtains and printed tiles. The outsized quilted headrest of the bed is, perhaps the only feature that follows the boldness of the ground level. Here, two features compete for focus, first the flooring of printed tiles, and second, the large headrest. However, the real eye-grabber is the dresser in the bathroom. It takes on all the elements used in the design of the home, right from the contrasting colours, and the detailing, to the voluminous sizing. “The furniture is carefully chosen to stand out and blend in – depends on how you see it. Within the rooms, we tried to maintain the concept and also meet the individual and teenage needs of the two young daughters of the couple. Neutral wallpapers line the walls behind upholstered beds. Bathrooms reflect the room colours and are eclectic in their own way,” say Farah and Dhaval.

The holy-grail for the design elements of this home, the skylight, is visible from almost all parts of the house. Or it makes its presence felt via the extension of its design and its play of light and shadow. Even the terrace takes its floor design from the slits of the skylight. Here, the walls have taken on more floral feature elements, suited to the outdoors. Therefore, the lookouts are framed by geometric-patterned lattice panels that are echoed in relief on the feature wall of the sit-out. Set upon a stepped platform, the seating area is a cosy nook concentrated, with sofas from Cane Boutique.

Say Farah and Dhaval, “We thought, ‘how difficult could it be to design around giant hand-painted tribal pots and red doors?’ ‘Very!’ as it turns out. But this stimulating experiment in design has resulted in a space that is eclectic and, energetic.”

## CASUAL LIVING ROOM

The seating in the casual living room includes this Morosso lounge, and lamp, both from Ventura Gallery.



## FOYER

An eye-catching space with several feature pieces. On the left, life-size sculptures of silos with tribal art patterns cover support pillars. These were on-site customisations by artiste Aarti Karwayun, of FRP Urn. The stacked-design staircase is constructed from black leather granite, red composite stone and natural oak wood. Note the vertical niche lighting in the staircase support wall. In the background is the entrance passage with its driftwood console.

**Get the look** The console-cum-shoe credenza (right) is custom-made by Team FADD. It is a unique blend of traditional and contemporary design.



**FORMAL LIVING ROOM**

The seating sits comfortably with the dominant colours of the room. A wood-clad partition separates this space from the casual living area. In that area, the phone-booth red of the doors and the vertical-bars wall-light feature contrast beautifully against the grey cement walls.

Following suit is the busy pattern of the upholstery of the sofa and its grid-like frame and the strict geometry of the doors.

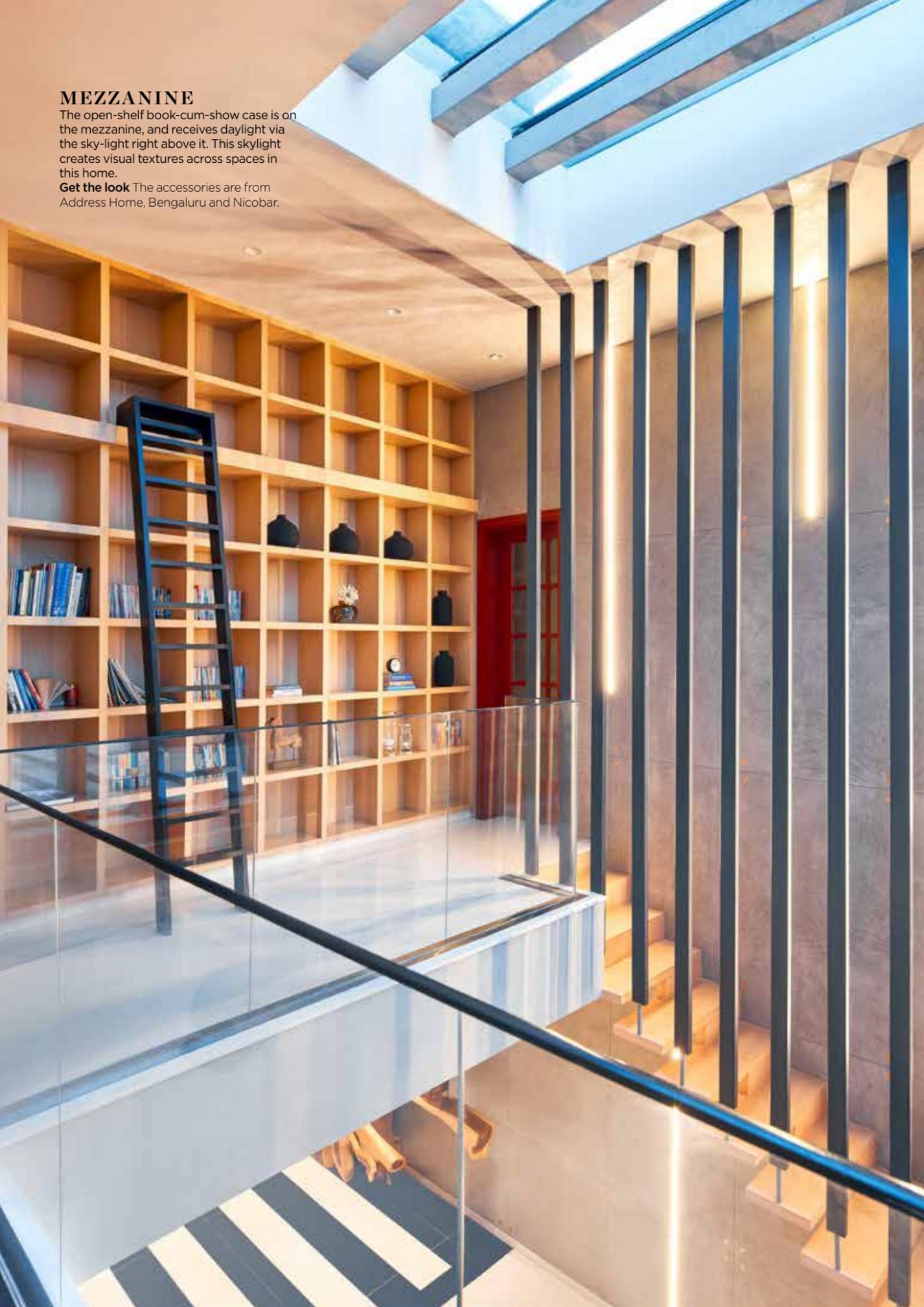
**Get the look** The seating is by Moooi from Ventura Gallery. The accessories on the centre table are from Address Home, Bengaluru.



**MEZZANINE**

The open-shelf book-cum-show case is on the mezzanine, and receives daylight via the sky-light right above it. This skylight creates visual textures across spaces in this home.

**Get the look** The accessories are from Address Home, Bengaluru and Nicobar.



The interiors are set along two axis lines—colour and form, originating from an intense need to invent a spectacular design.



↑ **DINING AREA**

Voluminous dining lights shine down on the extendable dining table. The varied-patterned dining chairs compete for attention. Note the curtains mimic the light-and-shadow that plays across the entire home.

**Get the look** Pendant Lights are from The Purple Turtles. This is the Eliot Keramik Drive Extendable Table from Cattelan Italia, available at Simply Sofas. The dining chairs are from Kartell.

→ **SITTING AREA**

The grey of the sofa is echoed in the chequered pattern of the curtains as well as the artwork. This pattern in turn is inspired by the panels of framed-slats arranged in a random sequence for the semi-roof of the main terrace.

**Get the look** This is a Gamma sofa from Ventura Gallery.



**DAUGHTER'S ROOM**

A cheery-hued floral pattern takes over the headboard of the bed. This is a customised raised-platform bed by Team FADD.

**Get the look** The bedding and accessories are from Thoppia and Nicobar. The striated grey-white wallpaper is from Petals, and the light-shade wood floor from Square Foot.



↙  
**MASTER BEDROOM**

A soothing white and neutral-shaded room has a quilted headboard for the bed. The triple-hued curtains bind into the colour scheme.

**Get the look** Printed motley floor tiles are refin by Ceramique. The furnishings are from Petals and the accessories are from Address Home, Bengaluru, Cottons and Satins, and Nicobar.

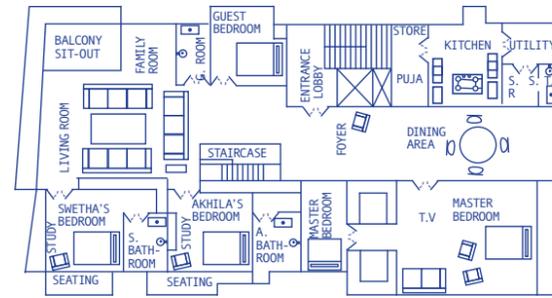
↓  
**BATHROOM**

In the crimson bathroom, the floor and wall tiles are refin by Ceramique.

**Get the look** The fixtures and fittings are from Kohler and Grohe, and the basin is from Valdama.



THE BLUEPRINT



UPPER FLOOR



← BATHROOM

Turquoise and white accompanied by floral motifs clad the walls and fixtures of this bathroom.

**Get the look** The floor and wall tiles are refin by Ceramique, while the fixtures and fittings are from Kohler and Grohe, and the basin is from Valdama.

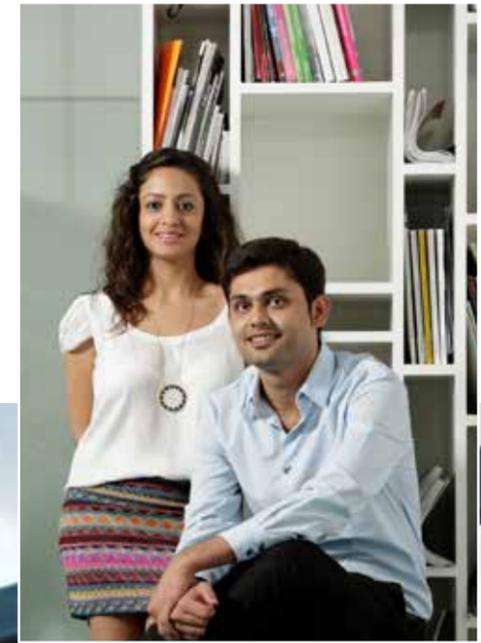
↙ BATHROOM DETAIL

This refreshing space has a vanity, which has been customised by Team FADD. It features hand-polished stencil patterns by artiste Aarti Karwayun.

↓ TERRACE

The expansive terrace does not take a break from pattern, and features raised platforms, slatted roofing and linear floor patterns, taken from the design of the skylight.

**Get the look** The furniture is from Cane Boutique; the tiling is from Ceramique, and the urns are from Hybiscus.



Designers  
Farah Ahmed  
Mathais and  
Dhaval.  
Shellugar

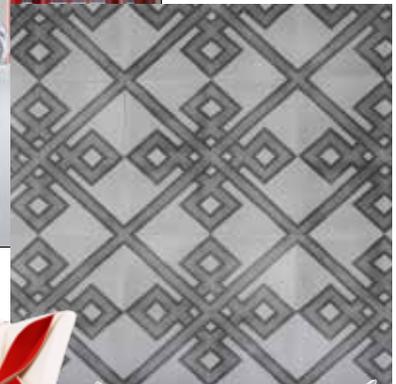


# IDEAS TO STEAL

Larger-than-life furniture and decor pieces, juxtaposed with bold colours make this home a stunner



ANTI-CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT  
**Concrete panel**, price on request, AAC; **paint** ₹950 per lt, Asian Paints; **tile**, price on request, Bharat Floorings; **fan**, price on request, Anemos.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT  
**Mademoiselle chair**, price on request, Kartell; **lounge chair**, price on request, Moroso; **bookend**, ₹4,595, Room Therapy; **nest sofa**, price on request, Moooi; **vase**, ₹4,692; **cushion**, ₹2,000, both from Address Home; **planter**, price on request, Alka Creations; **floor lamp**, ₹30,500, Ivanka Lumiere; **Chiara planter**, price on request, Idus.

