

INDIA
TODAY

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2026

HOME

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Photograph ASIAN PAINTS; Products and art GULMOHAR LANE; SIDDHARTH KERKAR; MALCAN HOUSE; RED BLUE YELLOW; JAIPUR RUGS; PEACOCK LIFE



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Asian Paints' ColourNext 2026 introduces a cultural shift toward slowness and authenticity, while exploring a future rooted in tactile reality, regenerative optimism, and ancestral craft

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Note to the reader: From time to time, you will see pages titled 'An Impact Feature' or 'Focus' in INDIA TODAY HOME. This is no different from an advertisement.



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SOUL SPACE

How emotional zoning transforms homes into intuitive, sensory-led sanctuaries



Photograph courtesy DESIGNHEX; Photograph by TALIB CHITALWALA



Photograph courtesy HOMANANI; Photograph by RISHABH GERA

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iSpy

Your guide to the hottest
new stores and products

By RIDHI KALE



No Stone Unturned

Meet Nimmit, the brand proving sustainable luxury is more than just a buzzword. Founded by textile visionary Manish Shah, Nimmit, meaning “the one who brings people together”, blends Indian heritage with a zero-waste, circular philosophy. Their wearable art and décor, like this Raku-inspired stoneware bowl, bridge the gap between tradition and the avant-garde. Embracing the beauty of imperfection, each bowl features unpredictable glazes and organic textures, ensuring your piece is a total one-off.

PRICE ₹6,100 (for a set of four)

AT www.nimmit.in



Turtle Power

Homes are soulful sanctuaries. Leading this shift is Lotus Arts de Vivre with their Guardians of the Home collection. These aren't just decorations; they're symbolic anchors. And the star? The sterling silver sea turtle teak wood bowl. Hand-carved from a single piece of teak and adorned with a silver turtle sporting tiger-eye quartz eyes, it took several artisans three months to perfect.

Representing longevity and balance, it elevates everything from your fruit display to your home's overall energy.

PRICE ₹10.27 lakh

AT www.ladv.com



Smells like High Design

Indore-based Kimirica is moving from your vanity to your living room with a chic expansion into luxury home fragrances. The collection features hand-poured soy candles, room sprays and sink-side caddy sets. Forget functional scents; co-founders Rajat and Mohit Jain have designed these as visual anchors. Encased in sophisticated reeded glass, the IFRA-certified range—including the aquatic Bella Amalfi and spicy The Souq—turns any corner into a sanctuary. With soot-free 45-hour burns and forthcoming reed diffusers, it's the ultimate housewarming flex. Your home just found its signature scent.

PRICE ₹449 to ₹1,299

AT www.kimirica.shop

Fit for a King

To celebrate the 50th birthday of Yuvraj Shivraj Singh of Jodhpur, Orange Tree has unveiled the Chevalier Collection—a royal tribute to heritage and nature. This limited-edition capsule reimagines field furniture with a 2026 quiet luxury twist, blending raw wood, matte leather and sand-cast brass. From foldable chairs, an outdoor coffee table and a bar trolley to elegant magazine rack, a photo frame, and a table lamp, all pieces stand out. And the centrepiece of the collection is the Picnic Trunk, featured here.

These geometric masterpieces are heirloom-quality style icons designed to last generations.

PRICE on request; AT www.orangetree.in



Resonate with This

The Naad Collection by collektklove draws inspiration from naad, the Sanskrit concept of primal resonance—the sound before form or light. This philosophy centres on the conch shell (shankh), whose deep, felt vibration is used in Indian rituals to cleanse and mark new beginnings. Mirroring the conch's natural spiral form, the collection translates resonance into layered, intentional light. Pieces feature opalescent glass that diffuses illumination like sound travels through space. The Anahata Lamp, part of this collection, embodies the idea of ‘unstruck sound’ with its organic, hand-crafted opalescent glass form, offering a steady, ambient light.

PRICE ₹22,000 (Anahata lamp); AT [@collekt.klove](https://www.instagram.com/collekt.klove) (Instagram)





Floral Alchemy

Shivangi Shah launches a new, eponymous vertical, Shivangi Shah – Artisanal Lighting, debuting the Floral Alchemy collection. Featuring hand-blown glass, this collection reinterprets organic forms into sculptural, handcrafted lighting that emphasises poetry and presence. The debut includes the Botanica wall arrangement (featured here), showcasing a commitment to slow, intentional craftsmanship where light, emotion, and form coexist. The collection represents a shift toward functional art designed to transcend fleeting trends.

PRICE ₹2.5 lakh to ₹15 lakh
AT @Shivangishahdesigns (Instagram)



Timeless Comfort

The Great Eastern Home has unveiled its signature sofa collection, featuring a curated blend of Italian, classical European and colonial styles designed to blend heritage with modern comfort. Crafted with meticulous attention to detail, the collection uses premium materials and artisanal techniques to create furniture that serves as a lasting statement in contemporary living spaces. Located in Mumbai's Byculla precinct, the brand aims to offer versatile seating solutions for discerning homeowners seeking both elegance and quality.

PRICE on request
AT www.thegreateasternhome.com

Wilderness Whispers

Ranthambore Reverie, the latest from vVyom by Shuchita introduces a soulful collection inspired by the untamed beauty of Rajasthan's jungles. Born from creative director Shuchita Sancheti's personal journeys, each piece features original hand-drawn motifs of tigers and ancient forts. The range—spanning breathable cotton quilts, cushions and tableware—blends quiet luxury with nature-led palettes. Designed for all-season living, the collection emphasises storytelling through craft, utilising earthy trims and soft textures to evoke the forest's stillness.

PRICE ₹2,800 onwards
AT www.vVyom.com



Legacy Returns

Marking a historic homecoming, the 105-year-old Indian icon Obeetee Carpets is set to open its first permanent London showroom at the Chelsea Harbour Design Centre in March 2026. Founded in 1920 by British promoters Oakley, Bowden and Tayler, the brand returns to its roots not merely as an exporter, but as a global design authority.

The space will showcase rugs as architectural elements alongside Obeetee's new foray into luxury furniture and bedding. By blending century-old weaving traditions with contemporary restraint, Obeetee asserts a distinctly India-led voice, bridging heritage and modern craftsmanship on the world's most prestigious design stage.

PRICE on request; AT www.obeetee.in

FOCUS KITCHEN

HÄCKER KITCHENS MUMBAI gets a fresh design perspective

On 28th February 2026, the Häcker x Resyde showroom in Mumbai reopened its doors to an evening that was as much celebratory as it was about new beginnings. The occasion also marked 20 years of Häcker in India - a milestone that reflects not just longevity, but enduring relationships with homeowners, architects and the larger design community.

For Mumbai's design community, the Worli address is a familiar one. This time, it felt reintroduced. The refreshed showroom revealed Häcker's newest innovations and kitchen ensembles, presenting evolved materials, refined integrations and layouts designed for the way India lives today. Alongside the kitchens, the latest collections of wardrobes, sofas, beds and other furniture from Novamobili, Flou & E-Forma completed the narrative - creating a holistic vision of the contemporary home.

Leading architects and interior designers from across Mumbai were in attendance, along with long-time patrons and collaborators, creating an atmosphere that felt both celebratory and intimate. The evening was anchored by The Insight Hour, led by Architect Sumesh Menon, who guided a thoughtful discussion on how kitchen design shapes daily rituals - from cooking and hosting to quiet family moments. His perspective connected architecture with lived experience, resonating deeply with the audience.

Chef Vicky Ratnani then brought palpable energy into the space with a live culinary session, Roast with Ratnani, transforming the kitchens from visual showcases into active stages. The aroma of food, the movement across work zones, and the easy flow of conversation demonstrated what a well-planned kitchen ultimately exists for - real life.



More than a relaunch, the evening in Worli stood as a tribute to two decades of Häcker in India. A familiar address, renewed with purpose, and ready for the years ahead.



DESIGN IN MOTION

Meet the recliner that blends high-tech relaxation with contemporary chic

By Ridhi Kale

If there is one piece of furniture that sparks a heated debate between interior purists and comfort seekers, it is the recliner. But whether you love them or loathe them, their evolution is undeniable. They've shed the bulky look of their predecessors for something far sleeker. Enter the Duroflex Avalon Elite mov.e, a motion recliner sofa specifically tailored for the spatial realities of modern Indian apartments, especially those spanning the 600 sq ft to 1,200 sq ft.

Innovation is Key

The crown jewel of this all-electric piece is its Zero Wall Technology. While traditional recliners demand a significant buffer zone from the wall, the Avalon Elite mov.e glides forward as it reclines, allowing it to sit almost flush against the wall. It's available in three palettes, Hawaiian Sunset Orange, Griffin Grey, and Hunter Green; and can be configured as one, two or three-seater. The upholstery uses a dense 360 GSM polyester fabric,

giving it a soft touch feel built to survive the wear and tear of daily life.

Comfort Comes First

The real magic, however, happens when you hit the button. The comfort is almost dangerously addictive; you may never want to get up. This sink-in support is the result of a dual-spring architecture, pairing pocket springs with zig-zag reinforcements. This is layered with high-resilience foam designed to bounce back, ensuring the seat doesn't lose its shape.

Smart Tech for Smart Homes

Duroflex has clearly kept the digital nomad in mind. Tucked into the side are USB-A and USB-C ports, making it a viable (if perhaps too comfortable) workstation or a charging hub for movie marathons. The transition between the sofa angles is handled by a smooth, near-silent dual-button motor that feels premium to the touch.

If we were to nitpick, the aesthetic isn't flawless. When the footrest fully extends, the underlying metal framework becomes visible, a slight industrial eyesore for the hyper design conscious. However, this is a small price to pay for the sheer engineering and comfort at play.

PRICE ₹38,867 onwards
AT www.duroflexworld.com

New Era of Quiet Luxury

Godrej Properties ushers in Shubh Aarambh season. Here's how

BUREAU REPORT

The definition of a dream home in India is undergoing a radical transformation. At a recent Shubh Aarambh ceremony at Godrej Meridien, Godrej Properties Limited offered an exclusive preview of its upcoming report, The Elevated Living Edit. Hosted alongside actor Sara Ali Khan, the event highlighted how luxury is no longer just about a prestigious PIN code—it's about how a space functions for the soul.

Shubh Aarambh is Godrej Properties' signature home-welcoming philosophy. More than a possession, the Shubh Aarambh ceremony is designed as a celebration honouring the journey from construction to completion and transforming the act of receiving keys into a heartfelt community experience. It reflects the brand's belief that a home is not merely built but welcomed.

Minimalism is the New Statement

Forget the bigger is better mantra. Today, 70 per cent of homebuyers associate luxury with modern, minimalist design. The focus has shifted to clean lines and functional beauty. The report also found that 70 per cent of buyers now prioritise dedicated yoga and meditation zones over traditional entertainment spaces.

High-Tech Privacy and Pet-First Living

The report reveals a fascinating surge in demand for hyper-functional privacy. A staggering 74 per cent of buyers view private elevators as a non-negotiable luxury, while 60 per cent specifically want dedicated pet lifts. This isn't just a whim, 43 per cent of respondents expressed a willingness to pay a premium of ₹10 to ₹20 lakh to ensure their furry companions and their personal privacy are catered to.

The Breath of Fresh Air

Even in high-rise living, the craving for the outdoors remains dominant. About 84 per cent of respondents insist



"Homebuyers are looking for sustainable, wellness-focused, and design-centric spaces that feel intuitive and are functional. These insights strengthen our focus on creating homes that are thoughtfully designed to provide everyday joy of living."

ROHIT MOHAN

Chief Design Officer,
Godrej Properties

"Today's premium homebuyer is investing in a lifestyle defined by wellness, thoughtful design, and long-term value, rather than just scale or location. At Godrej Properties, we remain committed to creating communities that are rooted in trust and aligned with the evolving aspirations of modern India."

GEETIKA TREHAN

CEO - North Zone,
Godrej Properties

"There is something very special about a home handover, and it marks a true Shubh Aarambh. Luxury today is no longer about excess; it's about awareness of how we live, what we value, and the spaces we choose to grow in. Homes that integrate wellness, thoughtful design, and a sense of balance resonate deeply with the way modern lifestyles are evolving."

SARA ALI KHAN Actor

on private balconies, signalling that indoor-outdoor fluidity is the top architectural requirement for 2026.

As Godrej Properties continues its streak as India's largest developer by sales value, The Elevated Living Edit proves that the future of real estate isn't just built on land—it's built on trust, wellness, and intuitive design.

A WOMAN'S TOUCH IN A CONCRETE WORLD

Here's why the Gulshan Group, led by Yukti Nagpal is changing not only Delhi-NCR skyline but also the way we view real estate

BUREAU REPORT

Photographs by HARDIK CHHABRA



Luxury in Indian real estate is no longer just a matter of visual grandeur. Today, it is an evolving philosophy that prioritises the long-term well-being of the family unit and the planet. At the heart of this transformation is the Gulshan Group, a developer that has consistently redefined the boundaries of premium living in the Delhi-NCR region.

Celebrating the Trailblazers

The shift towards a more “human-centric” luxury was recently celebrated at the Icons of Influence event, hosted by *India Today HOME* in partnership with the Gulshan Group. The afternoon was more than a corporate gathering; it was a salute to the women trailblazers who are reshaping industries. From Ayurvedic hand massages by Souttree and a gorgeous grazing

LEADING FROM THE FRONT
Yukti Nagpal, Director, Gulshan Group (above); the Icons of Influence (right)



L-R (sitting) Pallavi Singh, Nandita Raipurani, Chandni Kumari, Nikita Bansal, Amita Trehan R-L (standing) Divya Sheth, team member, Ruchika L Narang, Yukti Nagpal, Cherrie Nagpal, Leher Sethi, Neetu Kochher, Samita Khuranna, Ridhi Kale, Aparna Kaushik, Sukriti Sharma, Neha Kalia, Ragini Saxena, Anchal Singhal, Neetu Kanjolia



ICONS OF INFLUENCE

1. Amita Trehan
2. Anjali Goel
3. Aparna Kaushik
4. Atisha Pratap Singh
5. Chandni Kumari
6. Cherrie Nagpal
7. Divya Sheth
8. Dr. Chiranjeevi Chabraa
9. Dr. Geetika Srivastava
10. Leher Sethi
11. Manjari Chaturvedi
12. Nandita Raipurani
13. Neha Kalia
14. Nikita Bansal
15. Pallavi Singh
16. Prof. Dr. Balvinder Shukla
17. Ragini Saxena
18. Reshmi Dey
19. Samita Khuranna
20. Sonali Thakore
21. Sukriti Sharma
22. Vandana Bhandari
23. Yasmin Kidwai

table to interesting conversations that matter, the event was designed to mirror the very essence of Gulshan's philosophy—comfort, well-being and emotional warmth.

Perspective of Care

Yukti Nagpal, Director of Gulshan Group, has been a pivotal force in moving the needle from ‘marble and gold’ luxury to ‘wellness-first’ living. As a woman in a traditionally male-dominated leadership sphere, she brings an instinctive focus on how spaces are actually inhabited. Under her vision, features like hydroponic farming and Treated Fresh Air (TFA) units have become essentials. These aren't just ‘nice-to-haves’; they are critical investments in health and longevity. This commitment is best exemplified by Gulshan Dynasty, the first IGBC Platinum-rated green residential project in Delhi NCR, where wellness and sustainability are embedded into the design through meditation gardens, jogging tracks and lotus ponds.

What are Branded Serviced Apartments?

As the luxury segment matures, a new concept is taking centre stage, branded serviced apartments. These are fully furnished units managed by hospitality brands for short-to-long-term stays, typically owned by developers as commercial assets. They are ‘better’ for investors seeking higher occupancy and rental yields and for homeowners who want hotel-level services. In contrast, branded residences are not a match for them and fall short.

The upcoming venture by Gulshan Group on the Noida Expressway is set to be a landmark in this category. By partnering with a globally renowned hospitality brand, The Taj Group, they are introducing a development that features ultra-luxury branded residences spanning approximately 7,500 sq ft each. This project aims to offer the “hotel-to-home” dream—allowing residents to live with the same finesse and impeccable service they would expect from a five-star hotel.

For Nagpal, the ultimate goal is climate literacy among buyers. As we move forward, the Gulshan Group continues to prove that true luxury is not just about what you see, it's about how you live, how you feel and the legacy you leave behind.

OUTSIDE INSIDE

In Bangalore, bringing the outdoors in has become a whole lot easier

Bureau Report



HERE COMES THE SUN

At the new experience centre, technology replicates the warmth and rhythm of natural sunlight



The era where urban living often means being boxed within four walls, the luxury of natural light is becoming the ultimate wellness frontier. Recognising this shift, Sunrooof has officially opened the doors to its immersive Experience Centre in Bangalore.

Located in the heart of India's design and tech hub, it showcases a breakthrough technology that uses advanced optics, nano-technology and AI to recreate the literal sensation of standing under an open sky, even if you're in a windowless basement or a high-rise office.

Sunrooof, a subsidiary of the Magppie Group, founded by 21-year-old entrepreneur Ishat Jain, creates a system that doesn't just illuminate, it mimics the emotional rhythm of the sun. Plus, this isn't just for aesthetics, it's designed to enhance focus, elevate mood, and regulate sleep patterns by syncing indoor environments with the human body's biological clock.

For the design-conscious homeowner or architect, the brand offers more than a one-size-fits-all solution. Their collection includes diverse architectural styles, from minimalist and modern to French windows and atriums, ensuring that it fits seamlessly into any interior language. With over 800 installations already completed across hospitals, offices and luxury residences, the brand is rapidly redefining wellness in Indian real estate. As we spend more time indoors than ever before, Sunrooof's vision is clear: if you can't go to the sun, let the sun come to you.



STEELING THE SHOW

At Stainless Infraverse 2.0 by Jindal Stainless, experts highlighted stainless steel as the material of choice for India's growing infrastructure ambitions

Bureau Report



As India accelerates its urban expansion, a critical question emerges: are we building for today or the next century? Stainless Infraverse 2.0, organised by Jindal Stainless in Chennai, brought this question to the forefront..

The Longevity Challenge

Amid India's rapid infrastructure expansion, material choice is often treated as a technical afterthought, sidelining lifecycle performance and structural integrity.

Infrastructure failures caused by material degradation highlight the economic and social cost of short-sighted material choices. Industry estimates suggest India loses 3-4% of its GDP annually to corrosion. Structural failures are a stark reminder that material choice is inseparable from public safety.

Expert Dialogue

Moderated by Dr. S. Arul Jayachandran (IIT Madras), the panel brought together experts including Sridhar Vedula (Southern Railway), C. Balamurugan (PWD), Dr. Vijaya Ven-gadesh Kumar J (NITK Surathkal), Kosalra-man CJ (Infrabees), and Prabhu Chandran (ES Structural Consultant). The panel noted that while stainless steel may involve higher upfront costs, its longer lifespan and lower maintenance make it a more economical and sustainable choice.

At the event, Mr Rajeev Garg, Head of Sales, Jindal Stainless, emphasised: "the decisions we make at the planning and sourcing stage will define the safety, lifecycle costs, and environmental impact for decades. Material choice is a nation-building responsibility, and stainless steel supports the nation's long-term interests."

A Multitalented Material

The conclave also showcased a wide-range of stainless steel applications ranging from bridges and architecture to interior spaces, demonstrating how one material can serve multiple roles owing to its corrosion resistance, strength and long lifecycle.

As India progresses towards becoming a manufacturing powerhouse, the true measure of progress isn't just how fast we construct, but how long our structures will stand.

**Quick Tip
for Parents**

Design for flexibility. Instead of committing to permanent themes or furniture, choose adaptable elements like removable wallpapers, modular storage and durable finishes. They allow your home to evolve naturally as your children grow



Beyond Baby Proofing

Is the future of urban living adaptable, durable and clutter-free? A Bangalore apartment where style and child-friendly design coexist, proves it is

By SALONI VAID

Photographs by NAYAN SONI

We all grow up dreaming of a home that feels entirely our own, beautiful, personal and thoughtfully put together. But once life changes, especially after having children, the meaning of that dream home begins to shift. It is no longer just about curated corners or statement pieces; it becomes

about comfort, flow, and emotional ease. Ease when mornings are rushed. Ease when toys spill across the floor. Ease when little hands explore every surface without fear.

AD Studio 9, founded in 2019 by Apoorva Lekha and Sandesh Dhanaraj, reflects this shift in their recent apartment for a young family in Bangalore. Instead of leaning into obvious themes or overly child-focused design, the studio approached the project through a quieter idea. Caregiving. The result is a home that feels calm, practical and naturally aligned with family life.

A Home That Understands Real Life

Stepping into the living room, one immediately notices the absence of visual noise. Soft silhouettes, rounded furniture edges and a restrained palette of warm neutrals and olive tones. The space feels composed but never delicate.

Rather than relying on add on safety products, the apartment integrates safety into the design itself. Continuous flooring runs through the home, simplifying cleaning while making the apartment appear more spacious.

Material choices were guided by practicality as much as aesthetics. "Finishes were selected for longevity and ease rather than novelty. Matte wood veneers and laminates reduce the visibility of fingerprints and scratches," explains



Lekha. In fact, even upholstery fabrics were chosen in forgiving mid-tones that conceal everyday wear.

Containing Chaos

Homes with young children rarely stay perfectly tidy. Instead of resisting that reality, the design quietly manages it. Large wardrobes and built-in cabinetry absorb storage into the walls, reducing the need for extra furniture. In the living room, a shutter style TV console hides media equipment while adding warmth. In the children's room, a multifunctional play structure replaces multiple toys, bringing activity into one organised space. "The goal was not minimalism, but controlled layering. So the home feels alive, not cluttered," says Lekha.

Spaces That Grow With the Child

One of the most thoughtful aspects of the



FACT FILE

Project Name
Mithun's Residence

Location
Bengaluru

Area 1,765 sq ft

Design Studio
AD Studio 9

apartment is its adaptability. Instead of locking the home into one stage of life, the design allows it to evolve with the family. "Wallpapers were deliberately introduced as flexible design elements rather than permanent statements," says Lekha, adding, "In both the master and children's bedrooms, feature walls create strong spatial identity while remaining easily replaceable in the future. This approach allows the emotional character of a room to shift as tastes change, without disturbing the architectural framework."

The idea is simple. Surfaces and furniture can change while the underlying design remains timeless.

A Shift in Urban Homes

In cities where space is limited, this kind of thoughtful planning may soon become essential. When asked if this project could represent the future of family housing, the designers believe it can. "This project demonstrates that spaciousness is a perception shaped by proportion, light, and material continuity. By integrating storage, limiting unnecessary ornamentation and allowing rooms to perform multiple roles, the apartment supports a growing family without feeling compressed," adds Dhanaraj.

More importantly, it proves that homes designed for children do not have to sacrifice elegance. Real luxury is not how it looks on its best day, but how effortlessly it supports you on your busiest ones.

The Future is Radiant

Asian Paints' ColourNext unveils the design trends shaping your home in 2026

BUREAU REPORT

In an era saturated by digital noise, our homes are evolving from mere functional spaces into profound sanctuaries of quiet, intentional living. The good news is that Asian Paints has just released ColourNext 2026, its 23rd annual forecast, and the vibe for the future is clear: it's time to slow down, get tactile and find magic in the "real" world. It's a deep dive into how science labs and digital fatigue are reshaping our living rooms. ColourNext is South Asia's premier design crystal ball, blending insights from architects, sociologists and artists. This year, the report traces how shifts emerging across science labs, digital culture and everyday life translate into new design languages, moving us away from mere consumption and toward deep, meaningful connection.

The Star of the Show

At the very heart of this cultural landscape sits the Colour of the Year 2026, Moonlit Silk (Shade Code 7809). This warm, luminous neutral reflects a collective longing for slowness and emotional grounding in an overstimulated world. Radiant yet restrained, it evokes the softness of worn pages and the comfort of everyday rituals, offering a quiet presence without the need for performance. It is the tone of unperformed moments—the soft light of home at dusk or laughter that doesn't require an audience—acting as a calming anchor for contemporary spaces that seek warmth, quiet confidence, and an enduring relevance that transcends fleeting trends.

Four Directions for a New Era

The forecast identifies four interconnected design directions. We begin with IRL, a conscious rebellion against the curated paralysis of algorithms; it's an invitation to step into the tactile, unpredictable world with intention. Next is Solarpunk that offers a vision of "stubborn optimism," where technology and nature come together to create regenerative, life-affirming spaces. Together, these directions suggest that the future of design isn't about escaping reality,



In this living room (left) Moonlit Silk (Shade Code 7809) is complemented by three seater sofa from Gulmohar Lane, art by Siddharth Kerkar, coffee and console tables from Malcan House, wooden table from Red blue yellow, carpet from Jaipur Rugs and poufs from Peacock Life; Daydream theme (below) uses a bench from Hatsu



Pastoral theme supported by candle stands by Kaash at Nilaya Anthology and bench from Gulmohar Lane



Embrace chair by Atelier Ashiesh Shah, rug from Jaipur Rugs, console by Red Blue Yellow and wall sconce from Shailesh Rajput Studio give life to the IRL theme

Daydream theme (right) defined by a carpet by Hands and custom made table; Solarpunk (far right) has a chair and coffee table by Pinakin Studio, side table by Maraal Blue, channapatna side table and ball totem by Atelier Ashiesh Shah, rug by Hands, green bench by Hatsu, lights by Shailesh Rajput Studio; Pastoral theme (below left) with carpet by Jaipur Rugs and glass jar by Mahendra Doshi (est. 1974); another iteration of Daydream (below right) with the rug from Jaipur Rugs and bed linen by Temple of Style



“Rather than treating trends as surface aesthetics, ColourNext 2026 approaches them as cultural movements—systems of thought, behaviour, and imagination that shape how the world is being rebuilt.”

AMIT SYNGLE
MD and CEO of Asian Paints Ltd

but about grounding ourselves more deeply within it.

For those drawn to heritage, Pastoral redefines luxury through lineage, locality and inherited craft, proving that in an age of digital impersonation, ancestral knowledge, and land memory are the true markers of value. Finally, Daydream offers a soft suspension of time, creating a quietly surreal environment where the mind overlays reality with poetry, emotion, and light. Home becomes a sanctuary.

Wall-to-Wall Wonder

Extending the narrative of quiet depth is the Wallpaper of the Year 2026, Zanskar. Inspired by the high-altitude landscapes of the Himalayas, this design weaves a trellis of blooming roses across the surface, drawing from the intricate language of traditional pastoral embroidery. Hand-block printed gilver details shimmer softly like moonlight on mountain ridges, adding a subtle luminosity to any room. Both grounded and intricate, Zanskar reflects a renewed appreciation for craft and provenance, ensuring that the stories of our ancestors continue to have a place within the modern home.

Innovation is Key

This year also marks the introduction of the ColourNext Lab, a dedicated platform for material research and experimentation that prioritises curiosity over ready-made solutions. The Lab explores how colour and material intelligence can take many shapes, from heritage conservation and palettes for historic cities to experimental surfaces and spatial frameworks. Rooted in months of hands-on inquiry, the Lab reflects Asian Paints' commitment to research-led innovation, offering a limited-edition range of experimental finishes that explore what materials might become. Together, these directions signal a deeper cultural shift from spectacle to meaning, offering a future-facing framework for the worlds we will inhabit next.



THE ARCHITECTURE OF EQUILIBRIUM

When designing homes through a wellness lens, intangible architectural choices shape mental and emotional state of the inhabitants

By HARKARAN SINGH BOPARAI



Photograph by PURNESH DEV



Photograph by NAVAN SONI

MAKE IT GRAND

In a home in Amritsar tactility becomes the purest expression of luxury (left); Cove House in Amritsar is layered in tone while grounded in texture (far left)

Wellness in architecture and interior design is often reduced to visible strategies such as natural ventilation, access to daylight, or the use of sustainable materials. While these elements are important, they represent only part of the conversation. For many designers, the deeper impact of wellness lies in how a space is perceived and felt over time, often through decisions that are not immediately obvious.

Emotional Depth of Design

Practices shaped by classical residential and religious architecture have long engaged with this idea. Such projects demand a heightened sensitivity to atmosphere, proportion, and emotional experience. In these contexts, architecture is not simply about enclosure or function, but about creating environments that support reflection, comfort, and a sense of equilibrium. Over the past few years, this understanding has gained renewed relevance as designers reflect more closely on how everyday spaces affect mental and physical well-being.

Lessons from Sacred Spaces

In India, spaces of worship have long carried a natural sense of calm. Whether it is a temple courtyard, a gurdwara hall, or a sanctum carved into stone, these environments tend to slow the body and steady the mind. The question worth asking is whether this calm emerges solely from their spiritual function or whether architecture itself plays a more active role. Beyond belief, these spaces are shaped by deliberate decisions: controlled

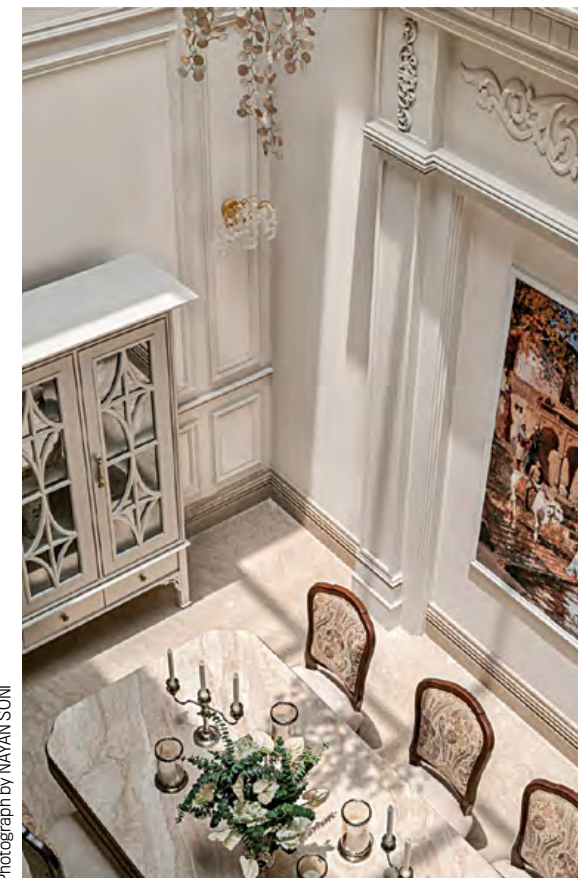


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www.harkaranboparai.studio

Photograph by AVESH GAUR



Photograph by NAYAN SONI



light, moderated sound, measured proportions, and an intuitive understanding of airflow and movement. Together, they create an atmosphere that feels grounded and composed.

Power of Spatial Homogeneity

This quality is not accidental. It comes from what might be described as a sweet homogeneity—a condition where form, material, light, and spatial rhythm align so seamlessly that no single element dominates. The experience is not overtly designed to impress; instead, it supports stillness. One does not need to analyse these spaces to feel their effect. The body responds instinctively, registering comfort and orientation before the mind begins to interpret meaning.

Translating Sanctuary to Daily Life

If architecture can generate this sense of ease in consecrated environments, it raises an important consideration for contemporary practice. Why should these principles be limited to spaces of worship? Today, people spend the majority of their waking hours not in temples or sanctuaries, but in offices and homes. These are the spaces that shape daily routines, stress levels, and long-term well-being. Yet they are often designed around efficiency, scale, or visual impact, with less attention given to how they are felt over time.

Balancing Scale and Restraint

The challenge becomes even more pronounced in large residential projects, where scale can easily lead to excess. For instance, in one of our ongoing residential projects in

DETAILED DESIGN

At HBS Flagship in Delhi you find a composition of materiality and meticulous detail (above); light bathes every corner in this home in Amritsar (right)

Mullanpur, Villa Moreno, a 45,000-square-foot home with over fifteen bedrooms, the design approach resists this tendency. Instead of relying on decorative emphasis, the focus has been on coherence. Forms, colours, and volumes are calibrated so that each element feels inevitable, as though it belongs precisely where it is. Nothing seeks attention in isolation.

Achieving Long-term Wellness

This restraint mirrors the logic found in sacred architecture. When spaces are resolved in this manner, visual noise is reduced and the environment supports the occupant quietly. The mind is not constantly nego-

tiating with its surroundings. Over time, this absence of friction fosters a sense of stability. It is an understated but powerful contributor to wellness.

Wellness-oriented architecture, then, need not be framed as a contemporary trend. It is rooted in principles that have existed for centuries within the Indian built environment. The opportunity today lies in translating these ideas into the spaces where people live and work every day. In doing so, architecture can move beyond appearance and begin to actively support how people feel, function, and recover within their environments.

RISE OF EMOTIONAL ZONING

Discover how the modern home is shedding rigid layouts in favour of sensory-led transitions and tactile handshakes that respond to the way we feel

By SHIMONA BHANSALI



Photograph by VISHESH KANANI



Photograph by JAWWI THAKKAR

A HEADY MIX

In these projects by DesignHex, Morahi (left) is zoned in a way where all requirements are infused despite the unconventional layout; while the Geome/haus (above) plays with materials and colours

Homes have shed their static identity as mere containers of furniture and finishes; they are now dynamic frameworks that resonate with our evolving routines, mental states and familial rhythms. As the boundaries between professional life and rest blur, and wellness transitions from luxury to daily practice, our living spaces are expected to perform emotionally as much as they do practically.

Emotional zoning is the natural, intuitive outcome of this evolution. It is a design philosophy that honours our fluctuating moods throughout the day and across seasons of life, using space to gently support these transitions. In 2026, design has moved decidedly beyond pure aesthetics and into the realm of empathy. The home, reimagined, becomes an ally: intuitive, responsive, and restorative.

Choreography of Comfort

Emotional zoning is achieved through a deliberate orchestration of design tools rather than physical walls. Light, materiality, proportion and circulation become the primary instruments. To begin with, start by mapping intent before drawing a single line, identifying zones for grounding, stimulation, retreat or connection.

Lighting is perhaps the most powerful modulator of mood. Layered illumination using ambient, task and accent lighting allows a single space to transition from contemplative to convivial with ease. Similarly, ceiling heights and spatial compression subtly alter psychological comfort, creating intimacy where calm is desired and expansiveness where energy is encouraged. For the modern home, this approach replaces rigid planning



Photograph by KUBER SHAH



Shimona Bhansali is the founder and principal designer at DesignHex, a Mumbai-based interior design studio www.designhex.in

IN THE ZONE

(clockwise from top) This project sees a burst of patterns, colours and narratives; marble walls next to wall to wall carpeting create fluid zones; Papa Don't Preach Flagship

Photograph by JANVI THAKKAR



Photograph by JTALIB CHITALWALA



Photograph by JANVI THAKKAR

cover story

Wellness | Design

with fluid adaptability. Spaces are no longer assigned a single identity. Instead, they evolve throughout the day, responding to the emotional cadence of their inhabitants.

The Style Guide

Zoning with intent liberates the home from stylistic dogma. Rather than adhering to a singular aesthetic language, it permits a more layered, intuitive expression. In fact, the coexistence of multiple design styles within one home often enhances emotional clarity rather than detracting from cohesion.

Treat style as a vocabulary, not a rulebook. A restrained, contemporary envelope may house a deeply textural, almost artisanal corner for introspection. Elsewhere, a softly classical gesture might anchor a space intended for familial gathering. What binds these moments together is not visual uniformity, but emotional continuity.

This coherence is achieved through consistent material undertones, a shared colour temperature, or recurring tactile cues. Transitions are handled with care, ensuring the home reads as a singular narrative rather than a collage. Harmony is no longer synonymous with sameness. A successful home allows its inhabitants to encounter different moods as they move through it

A Feast for the Senses

Sensory design is essential to emotional zoning. Sight alone cannot carry the emotional weight of a space. It must be supported by sound, scent, and spatial tact. In our practice, we pay close attention to acoustics, often an overlooked element in residential design. Soft furnishings, timber surfaces and concealed acoustic treatments temper noise, transforming echo prone areas into spaces of calm resonance. Silence, when designed intentionally, becomes a luxury.

Olfactory cues are equally powerful. Natural ventilation, indoor planting and material choices that age grace-

fully contribute to a home that smells alive rather than manufactured. These subtle sensory layers anchor memory and emotional comfort.

Even movement through space is choreographed. The shift from a bright animated zone into a quieter dimmer one prepares the mind for rest. Sensory design ensures that transitions feel intuitive and intentional, not abrupt.

Emotional Handshake of Tactility

Tactility is the emotional handshake between the inhabitant and the home. It is through touch that space, or anything for that matter, becomes personal, grounding, and real. Think honed stone over polished finishes, natural timber over synthetic laminates and textiles with visible weave rather than flat patterns. These choices foster a subconscious sense of ease and belonging.

In emotionally zoned homes, tactility is calibrated to mood. Spaces for rest embrace softness and warmth, while zones of activity employ firmer and cooler surfaces that energise. Even the weight of a door handle or the grain of a tabletop contributes to how a space is perceived and remembered. Tactile diversity also introduces rhythm. Moving from smooth to textured, from warm to cool, heightens awareness and presence.

Art of Restraint

Zoning emotionally is not about overstimulation, but about balance. Appeasing all the senses does not mean engaging them all at once. Instead, it means knowing when to quiet one sense so another may come forward.

A successful home understands restraint. Visual calm allows tactile richness to shine. Acoustic softness enhances spatial clarity. Sensory hierarchy becomes the key. When a space knows when to energise and when to retreat, it becomes deeply supportive. The inhabitant feels held, understood, and restored.

WATTS UP WITH YOUR WELL-BEING?



If your home's illumination doesn't sync with your daily rhythm, from bright morning rituals to those that aid restorative sleep, you're missing 2026's ultimate lifestyle essential

By **ARYAMAN JAIN**

Good lighting is not noticed, but bad lighting is felt. Most people think lighting is about seeing. It isn't; lighting is about being. Long before alarms, calendars or screens existed—light guided the human body, telling it when to wake, when to focus and when to rest. This internal clock or our circadian rhythm, still governs how we sleep, think, digest and recover. Yet in most homes today, lighting remains indifferent to this rhythm.

Lighting is often treated as a decorative afterthought. Chosen late in the design process and reduced to

fixture styles, wattage or ambience. Rarely is it designed around how people live. Human-centric lighting (HCL) changes that.

At its core, HCL is a simple idea—lighting that follows the natural progression of daylight. Morning light, cooler and brighter, supports alertness, hormone regulation and mental clarity. As the day progresses, balanced, glare-free light sustains focus without fatigue. By evening, warmer, and softer tones signal the body to slow down, release melatonin and prepare for rest.

When this rhythm is respected, we function better: sleep improves, energy stabilises, mood lifts, and



DID YOU KNOW?

- Brightness is not the same as usefulness. A space can be brightly lit and still exhausting. Visual comfort depends on contrast, direction, glare control and how light reaches the eye—not raw brightness.
- The eye and the body see light differently. Your eyes judge light by visibility. Your body judges it by timing. Most homes only design for the first.
- Night-time light is biologically louder than daytime light. A small amount of the wrong light at night can do more damage to sleep than a large amount of light during the day does to focus. This is why lighting designed only for aesthetics often fails at wellness—quietly, over time.



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www.ildlimited.com*

immunity strengthens. When it is ignored, the effects show up quietly: poor sleep, chronic fatigue, irritability and stress, often without a clear cause.

High-end homes globally are beginning to understand this shift. They are no longer designed to just see but also to feel. HCL systems quietly adjust colour temperature and intensity throughout the day—cool and energising in the morning, balanced through the afternoon, warm and calming by evening. Nothing dramatic, just light behaving the way it was meant to.

The most powerful part? You don't have to think about it. The best technology is invisible. There are no complicated controls or constant adjustments. Sensors, tuneable LEDs and intelligent controls work quietly in the background, responding to time of day and available daylight. You don't 'use' the lighting; you simply feel better living with it.

In India, awareness of circadian-aligned lighting is still emerging. Many beautifully designed homes rely on a single colour temperature from morning to midnight, excessive brightness after sunset or decorative fixtures that ignore glare or visual comfort. If your consultant is not asking how you wake, work, unwind and sleep, you are missing one of the most meaningful wellness upgrades available today.

Lighting is not just about how a home looks. It's about how a home supports the people living in it. As wellness moves beyond gyms and spas into everyday living, HCL is emerging as one of the most intelligent luxuries a home can offer. The future of residential design will no longer ask, how does it look? It will ask, how does it make you feel at every hour of the day.

The Great Escape

When did bathrooms become so intentional? Mapping the shift from functional space to daily sanctuary

By SOUVIK CHOWDHURY

It begins with a subtle shift: a softening of the glow, a lingering steam, a fragrance that anchors the senses. What starts as a daily necessity quietly matures into a ritual—a private sanctuary carved from the chaos of the modern world. This signals a significant shift in the realignment of domestic spaces toward how intuitively spaces respond to the body and mind instead of being defined by spectacle.

Rather than recreating the overt language of luxury spas, bathrooms are now designed to respond to the

lived experience that feels personal, sensory, and instinctively calming. As Pooja Bihani, principal architect at Spaces & Design, observes, the emphasis today lies in calibrated sensory moments. “How light shifts through the day, how materials feel underfoot, and how the space encourages pause,” she says. This nuanced approach moves away from predictable spa clichés, instead allowing bathrooms to emerge as deeply individual retreats shaped by what Bihani calls “expressive surfaces or quieter, craft-led detailing in stone and wood.”

This sensorial continuity extends into spatial planning as well. Layouts are increasingly designed to encourage slower, more immersive moments of unwinding. Freestanding tubs are positioned to engage with natural light, sculptural fixtures introduce a visual rhythm, while framed views become immersive moments of unwinding. “The bathroom is not a functional afterthought but an extension of the home’s larger narrative. It is conceived as a private realm of retreat, where materiality, light and proportion are carefully orchestrated,” says Sachin

Photograph by HARSHAN THOMSON



Photograph by ISHITA SITWALA



Photograph by ATUL PRATAP CHAUHAN



Photograph by ATUL PRATAP CHAUHAN

TAKE YOUR PICK

(clockwise from far left) A bathing retreat framed by nature and daylight; powder room set against a painterly backdrop; vein-cut marble shapes the Newton bathtub by Maison Valentina; metallic tub set against garden views

Gupta, co-founder and design principal at Beyond Designs. What emerges? Environments that feel immersive yet composed.

Technological interventions are also central to this transition, though they operate with quiet restraint. The growing integration of chromotherapy showers and aromatherapy reinforces this sensory layering. Rather than functioning as technological highlights, these elements are designed to support mood and rhythm. The gentle transition of coloured light from energising hues to softer evening tones, when paired with scents that subtly linger within steam, creates an environment for emotional restoration. For Aditi Savani, co-founder and principal designer at Studio Tattva by Aditi, this marks a broader shift towards indulgence that engages all senses in a restorative manner. “The conscious use of colour influences mood, while scent becomes a quiet layer of comfort. Materiality also plays a crucial role,” she notes.

At the core of this transformation is a growing desire to reconnect with nature,

shaped by raw, grounding materials that bring a sense of calm and clarity. “By incorporating natural elements, these spaces enhance overall wellbeing. Bridging the gap between nature and the bath experience, wellness-led bathrooms create calmer, more immersive environments where users can truly unwind,” shares Shalini Chandrashekar, principal designer and co-founder, Taliesyn Design & Architecture. Natural stone plays a key role in this approach, adding a rustic yet authentic character to the space. Emphasising this, Amrita Guha, Founding Partner, Untitled Design, adds, “Using rough-textured natural stone is another thoughtful intervention. Beyond its tactile charm and durability, stone brings a sense of rootedness and minimal processing compared to highly manufactured surfaces.”

As spaces evolve into sensory sanctuaries, the bathroom reflects how we are redefining routine transforming one of the home’s most private spaces into its most nurturing. Not grand or elaborate, but just attuned to what the body already knows it needs.

Souvik Chowdhury is an architect and writer working at the intersection of design narratives, research and storytelling, currently shaping strategic communications and editorial direction as Associate Director at Epistle | www.epistle.co

“TRUE LUXURY IS NOT VISUAL EXCESS”

As we step inside the collaborative world of architects Seema Puri and Zarir Mullan, we realise why they choose restraint over ornamentation and longevity over immediacy

By RIDHI KALE



Photograph by DINESH MEHTA



Photograph by MANDAR DEODHAR

Twenty-eight years in, two architects are still proving that in a world of architectural noise, the most powerful thing you can do is lower the volume. It all started in 1998; there were no high-speed renderings or flythroughs. For Seema Puri Mullan and Zarir Mullan, the early days of SEZA Architects & Interior Designers were defined by the tactile scratch of graphite on paper and the smell of sawdust on villa sites. They called it trial by fire, working with tight budgets where every rupee mattered and every detail was a lesson learned the hard way. They didn't call it a mindset back then; it was just survival and a growing obsession with getting things right.

The scale changed when a massive commission for 150 villas landed on their desks. It was the kind of project that forces a studio to scale up fast, moving from the intimacy of a single home to the complexity of a neighbourhood. But even as they moved into the world of Mumbai's high-rises and commercial hubs, they did not let go of their roots.

LANGUAGE OF LUXE

Zarir Mullan and Seema Puri Mullan in the lobby of their latest project in Mumbai (left); an artwork by MF Hussain in a Dubai home (far left)



TALE OF TWO CITIES

Bedroom (left); bathroom (below far left); staircase (below left) and living space (bottom) from a Delhi villa project; the blue bedroom (below); and triple height courtyard (right) from a Dubai villa project



Photograph by DINESH MEHTA



Talk to Zarir about luxury and you won't hear about gold leaf or Italian marble. He'll talk about the way light hits a floor at 4 PM or how a room feels when it's silent. "True luxury is space and proportion," he says. It's a hard sell in an industry that loves flashy, but they don't argue with clients. Instead, they show them. They use their drawings to demonstrate how a flashy feature might feel exhausting after five years, while a well-placed

window or a double-height volume only gets better with time.

There is a pragmatism to how they work; the design language changes as quickly as the zip code. So, in the vertical crush of Mumbai, they design homes that act as filters, using screens and decks to keep the chaos at arm's length. Move to Dubai, however, and the walls practically disappear, allowing courtyards to become the social heart of the home.

There is a quiet precision to their work that feels almost scientific. You see this in action at the Mani Bungalow in Mathura. It's built for the tropics, using double walls and through-ventilation to drop the indoor temperature by five degrees without touching an AC remote. It's traditional wisdom, just refined for right now.

But perhaps the most telling project isn't a luxury home at all. The Ecove Centre in Aurangabad inspired by the "carved" feeling of the Ellora caves, wasn't built for a client, it was

built for a community. It's a space meant to bridge the gap between architectural high-design and the reality of village life, providing dignity through shared knowledge.

Behind it all is a partnership that thrives on a simple rule: the project is the boss. Whether one is steering the architecture and the other the interiors, it's a constant, sometimes blunt, dialogue. They aren't interested in immediate trends or Instagram-friendly "moments." They're playing the long game, building things that breathe, age and, above all, feel human.

THE ITALIAN JOB

From the momentum of collectible design to human centric AI, this year's Salone del Mobile.Milano is setting a global pulse for sustainability, materiality and technology

By MARIA PORRO



Photograph by PAOLO RIOLZI; Courtesy SALONE DEL MOBILE.MILANO



This & that Curtain Raiser



A GOOD MIX

(clockwise from left)
Davide Groppi Sampei floor lamp; Porro Romby chair; EuroCucina; Emu Ivy sofa; Molteni&C armchair

There's truly nothing like it. The Salone del Mobile ignites an electric atmosphere—charged with anticipation, ideas and a powerful sense of global community. What begins inside the fair naturally radiates outward. It sets the rhythm for the entire city. Milan transforms, showrooms come alive, venues reinvent and the streets become part of a broader cultural landscape.

The Material Manifesto

The 2026 theme is 'A Matter of Salone', it invites us to see design not just as form but as responsibility. It pushes us to trace materials back to their origins, to ask where they come from, who extracts and processes them, what environmental and social impact they carry. Today, materiality is no longer neutral. It's political, ecological, ethical. Design becomes a tool to tell stories of sustainability, equity and awareness.

Emotional Living is Trending

There's a clear desire to move beyond the purely functional or decorative—towards objects that carry narrative that speak of care, of time, of thought. Design is becoming more intentional, aware of its context and attuned to the emotional and cultural dimensions of how we live. It's less about following a trend in the traditional sense and more about shaping a collective sensibility; one that values quality, presence and purpose.





GLOBAL OUTLOOK
Products from Collectors
Lounge at Salone del Mobile
Art Basel Miami



↖
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design brand
www.salonemilano.it/en/*



A Culinary Sanctuary

The kitchen is no longer just a functional zone, it's a living ecosystem. It blends with the living room, hosts social rituals and reflects personal identity. Technology is becoming more discreet, almost invisible, while materials are more natural, more durable. The kitchen becomes a space of relationships, memory, and sensory experience—not just of preparation. EuroCucina reflects this beautifully; these are no longer purely functional spaces, but expressions of identity and wellbeing. With Italian cuisine recently recognised as UNESCO intangible heritage, it feels even more meaningful to reimagine the kitchen as a cultural space.

Where Furniture Meets Fine Art

Collectible design is gaining momentum. We're seeing signed, numbered and certified pieces that blur the line between furniture and art. These are not just objects to use, but to cherish—pieces that carry narrative and emotional value. And Salone 2026 affirms it clearly with the debut of Salone Raritas, a new curated exhibition path dedicated to limited editions and one-of-a-kind pieces. Conceived as a bridge between high craftsmanship, design galleries and the professional market, it brings together curated icons, outsider objects, and unique works that combine aesthetic value with long-term cultural relevance.

Salone 2026 is both a statement and a horizon. It reminds us that design is not only about what we create but how, why and for whom. It is not just a place you visit, rather a platform that travels, listens and connects.

Authenticity over Algorithms

AI is a tool, not the author. What's emerging is a reassertion of the designer's role—the hand, the intuition, the vision. Many brands are exploring how AI can support or expand their design thinking, but they're not replacing the human voice. In a world where anything can be generated, authenticity becomes even more valuable. The human gesture gives meaning.



SYMPHONY OF STYLE

Inside this Mumbai-home, seamless audio elevates everyday living, weaving sound into its soul

By POORNA PATEL SONI

Photographs by HARSHEEN MENGAR

TUNE INTO THIS

Sonos Sub 4 woofer and Arc Ultra soundbar inside the sea-facing bedroom (right); Poorna Patel Soni has used Sonos Era 100 speaker in the living room (below)



When you spend a significant amount of time at home, you begin to notice the quieter details that shape the choreography of everyday living. For me, sound is one of those invisible yet essential elements. It isn't something you necessarily plan for at the blueprint stage, but over time, you realise how deeply it influences a home's soul. Whether it's the hum of conversation during a dinner party or the solitary stillness of a Sunday morning, music naturally becomes the heartbeat of

the atmosphere.

I wanted sound to flow through my home the way light does—fluidly, effortlessly and without being restricted by walls. The goal wasn't to make technology the focal point, but to let audio exist as a background layer supporting the rhythm of daily life.

In my Mumbai home, the interiors are designed to feel warm, calm and welcoming, intentional without being overly styled. When we integrated the Sonos system, it followed this same philosophy. In the main



FACE THE MUSIC

From the outdoor Sonance speakers and Era 100 tucked into the walk-in closet to Sub 4 woofer and Arc Ultra in the second bedroom, the Soni residence takes sound every seriously



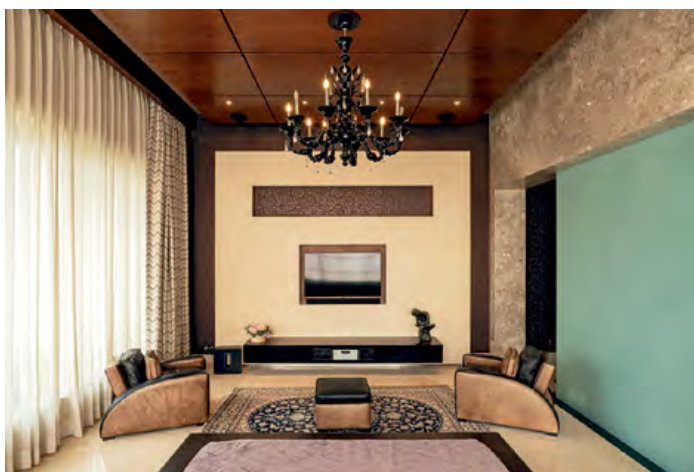
living area, the Sonos Arc Ultra paired with the Sub 4 anchors the cinematic experience, while the Era 300 adds a wide, room-filling presence. Elsewhere, Era 100 speakers are tucked into the bedroom and even the bathroom, allowing melodies to follow us from room to room. The intention was always to hear the sound before you notice the speakers.

Every corner of a home serves a different purpose. Some areas are social and energetic, while others are personal sanctuaries. The beauty of a multi-room setup is its flexibility; using Trueplay tuning technology, each speaker is calibrated to the unique acoustics of its specific room. The result is a consistent, balanced texture that adjusts naturally as you move through the house.

For me, unwinding is about shifting the home's energy from busy to calm. On most evenings, that means a family movie night where the Arc Ultra ensures dialogue is crisp against the cinematic depth of the Sub 4. Conversely, mornings are gentler, starting the day with a podcast or soft jazz through an Era 100 sets a peaceful tone without feeling intrusive.

When selecting an audio system, consider how you actually live in your space. The best designs don't dominate a room; they elevate it. When sound feels natural and unobtrusive, it ceases to be a gadget and becomes a fundamental part of the architecture. It is these subtle, sensory layers that truly make a house feel like a home.

Poorna Patel Soni is an entrepreneur and luxury consultant, renowned for curating brand experiences for global luxury names and shaping high-profile cultural platforms. She is the daughter of industrialist Praful Patel and is married to Namit Soni @poornapatel (Instagram)



HERITAGE MEETS CONTEMPORARY COOL

Marking a grand homecoming, the brand's Mumbai flagship has arrived at the iconic Trafford House, and its prestigious location is only the beginning of its appeal

BUREAU REPORT

Move over, nostalgia, Viya is back in Mumbai with a fabulous store that is grabbing eyeballs. After a 12-year hiatus with the city, the brand has finally moved back in, setting up a stunning 4,600 sq ft flagship at the iconic Trafford House. It's the kind of homecoming that will get talked about for years to come.

Founder Vikram Goyal, who usually calls New Delhi home, knew exactly what he was doing by picking Trafford House. The building is a heritage legend, but don't expect a dusty museum vibe. The interiors have been given a 'restrained, monochromatic' makeover, stripping back the historical layers to let the architecture breathe.

The flagship offers a comprehensive look at Viya's eclectic universe. Visitors can explore a lot of different things here. There are the staples, a signature range of tables, chairs, lighting and decorative vases. You get a look at new ventures, such as the official launch of Viya apparel and an expanded collection of intricate cane objects. Then there's the personalised design option, a dedicated room for Vikram Goyal Studio consultations, which allows you to dive deeper into bespoke, sculptural commissions.

At its heart, Viya is still about that incredible Indian craftsmanship: think brasswork, stone inlay and hand embroidery, but with a witty, modern twist. Each piece tells a story pulled from Indian myths and fables, making them less like furniture and more like conversation starters. In a city that's always in a rush, this flagship is a rare invite to slow down and enjoy some quiet grandeur.



BEAUTY OF CONTRAST

This sanctuary of design blends heritage architecture with contemporary brasswork, sculptural furniture, and the brand's new apparel and cane collections



OLD SOULS, NEW STORIES

In Bangalore, this design-led store is an evolving archive of Indian material culture, where craft, sustainability and storytelling converge under one roof

By MEHAR DEEP KAUR

Photographs by NAYAN SONI; Styled by DRISHA JAIN

Across cultures, materials have long served as storytellers—recording rituals, domestic lives and changing times within their grains. When reinterpreted with care, they become conduits between past and present, carrying forward histories while making room for new narratives.

Rooted in this ethos, Curious Hues finds its home in Bangalore. The 7,500 sq ft retail store—spread across a ground floor and a newly added upper level—unfolds as a manifesto on how Indian craft, reclaimed materials and design ingenuity can create aspirational yet accessible spaces. Co-founded by Rinku Passary and Swanit Passary, the product and spatial design studio blurs the line between collectible artefacts and functional design, extending this sensibility beyond the retail domain into full turnkey projects.

Curious Hues' inventory oscillates between two typologies: hand-carved pieces and repurposed works resurrected from memories both personal and forgotten. A former door panel becomes the face of a console, bullock cart tails taper into sculptural bookshelves and railway sleepers find new life as coffee tables. Another console stands on supports salvaged from old pillars; a brass chest reveals animal carvings that glow softly under filtered daylight. Elsewhere, damchiya fragments, once gifted to newly married women, now anchor contem-

WOOD WONDERLAND

(clockwise from right) An accent wall decked with gilt frames; layered display of reclaimed wood; antique mirror above a salvaged console; open gallery on the first floor





CURATED COLLECTION

(clockwise from far left)
Handwoven patchwork runners
alongside timber beauties;
vintage furniture; co-founders
Swanit Passary and Rinku
Passary in the store

and the team often styles and designs homes as fully realised spatial projects using the pieces they design and curate. “Why should aesthetics be limited to the elite?” asks Swanit. Here, that question isn’t rhetorical. “We offer creations rich in story and soul, capable of inhabiting homes of every scale,” he answers.

Walk through the store and you sense that nothing is accidental. Each curve, crack, bolt and burn mark is a deliberate calibration, yet feels untouched. The studio’s name may hint at colour, but its true palette is curiosity itself—an evolving spectrum of reinvention, where elements manifest as the beginnings of countless stories waiting for their next home.

PRICE ₹2000 to ₹2.7 lakh
AT @curioushues.in (Instagram)

porary tables; woven iron jali from old warrior shields reemerge as perforated black pots; even a horse figurine burned in hay wears its charcoal-like texture with poetic authority.

What others might discard becomes covetable; what once served a function now gains personality. “Not just a vintage store, we give new life to every object,” asserts Rinku. That belief shows in experimental gestures too—an orange accent wall studded

with wooden frames wrapped in brass sheet offers a shimmering play of tactility; oversized hand-painted iron pots stand beside deliberately bright red companions. Upstairs, dried palm leaves mingle with textiles woven by desert communities—patchwork table runners that bring lightness without ornamentation.

Yet sustainability is not the selling point—it’s the philosophy. Objects are recast without losing their honesty,



Mehar Deep Kaur is a design writer and educator who specialises in research-led and editorial-grade narratives @mehardeep_official (Instagram)

THE ART OF THE IMPERFECT

Get ready for a visual feast, as you step inside Delhi's newest, best-kept design secret

By RIDHI KALE

Photographs by RISHABH GERA



IN THE DETAILS

(clockwise from right) The living room brings together furniture, lighting and surface finishes; another living space that shows styling details; layered textiles and tactility shine in this bedroom

This & that
Shopping



In the fiercely fabulous world of luxury branding, 20 years is less a lifetime and more an eternity. Yet for the inimitable Anubha Laroiya Aneja, two decades spent sculpting others' dreams led to an epiphany: the ultimate brand to build wasn't a corporate giant, but a deeply personal sanctuary. Thus, HōmAnAn was born, a design destination with a soul.

Tucked away on the quieter, tree-lined fringes of South Delhi's Greater Kailash, HōmAnAn is delightfully removed from the city's frantic hustle. Forget the sterile, look-don't-touch froideur of a traditional showroom; this is a showhouse, a living, breathing testament to the art of high-end living. Aneja has meticulously curated a symphony of over 40 brands including Sarita Handa, Jagdish Suthar, Oorja, Vakr Studio, Kara Sabi, Understory, UDC Homes, The Home Studio and Fortitude—creating a space where every corner tells a story and design truly feels like home.

From the Beginning

"I felt something calling me," she explains, reflecting on her transition from marketing powerhouses to styling interiors. "It wasn't a sudden shift, but a gradual evolution. Everyone does their own home with passion, but when friends and family start pushing you to do theirs, you realise your hobby has become a professional calling."





The result is a curated sanctuary that serves as a launchpad for homegrown brands—specifically those that lack a physical retail presence in Delhi. In an era of mindless scrolling, she is making a case for the tactile. “No one truly buys décor online,” she says with the wit of a seasoned marketer. “It’s like jewellery. You have to see it, feel it, wear it. You need to know how it lives in a room,” she shares.

The Theology of Gaps

The home is almost a living-breathing entity, with its own quirks, flow and design style. The heart of the house is perhaps the most unconventional mandir. Eschewing the predictable lotus motifs and polished marble, she has opted for slate, ceramic wall art from Dharamshala and a philosophy of ‘perfect imperfection’.

“I reached out to these ceramic artists and told them I wanted their pieces for my mandir. They were shocked—their pieces were broken, incomplete,” she laughs. “But that’s the point. When I sit in a spiritual space, I surrender as I am. I am imperfect. Why should my sacred space pretend to be otherwise? The gaps in the art define us.”



CREATIVE CALL

From the dining to the living, from the bedroom to the den, multiple homegrown brands have been used to create a visual extravaganza

Curating a Living Legacy

Every corner of the house tells a story, from Vidhi Gupta’s Hyderabad-sourced art—painted on discarded 100-year-old prayer book manuscriptsto Mahesh Sharma’s ‘Goddess of Sound’, a haunting piece rendered in a mix of mud and pigment. Even the floors speak: a massive, ₹16 lakh wool masterpiece by Understory anchors the lounge, proving that legacy brands can still feel avant-garde.

The layout is intuitive; living quarters to the left, intimate bedrooms to the right and an upstairs lounge designed for the high art of entertaining. But don’t expect a static display. Like any good brand, this house is evolving.

“We aren’t a commercial gallery,” she concludes. “This is a home. We offer styling advice, customisation and seasonal shifts.” It is a ‘by appointment only’ invitation into a world where the base is neutral, but the life lived within it is vibrantly, beautifully flawed. For those in the know, it’s the most authentic script in the city.





CHOOSE WISELY
Living room with a view of the dining area (previous page); entrance foyer (far left); kid's room cum nursery (left)

RESTRAINT AND RHYTHM

A multi-generational family home in Mumbai that balances classical elegance and contemporary design with ease and flair

By DISHA BHAVSAR AND SHIVANI AJMERA

Photographs by NAYAN SONI

High above the kinetic pulse of Mumbai, Evelyn House emerges not merely as a residence, but as a lesson in quietude. Designed to transcend the fleeting nature of interior trends, this high-rise haven was conceived as a multi-generational legacy home—a space where classical elegance meets a sharp, contemporary sensibility. In a city often defined by its density, Evelyn House prioritises the luxuries of restraint, proportion and natural light, resulting in an environment that feels both intuitively familiar and remarkably elevated.

A Prelude of Light and Volume

The architectural narrative begins with a rare gift of space, a sweeping wraparound terrace that envelops the home. This perimeter of glass allows Mumbai's coastal light to flood the interiors, working in tandem with generous ceiling heights to create an 'open-to-sky' quality. The journey commences in an unusually expansive foyer—less a hallway and more a stately ante-chamber. This deliberate pause in the floor plan sets a tone of hospitality, offering a sense of arrival that is a true rarity in urban high-rise living.



Disha Bhavsar and Shivani Ajmera are co-founders of award-winning, Mumbai-based interior design practice Quirk Studios @quirkstudio (Instagram)

FACT FILE

Name of Project

16, Evelyn House

Name of Design Firm

Quirk Studio

Location

Mumbai

Typology

Residence

Area

7,500 sqft

COLOUR CODED

(clockwise from top right) Den with a view of the bath space; serene master bedroom; the bold dining room

Spaces Interiors



The Serene Living Canvas

Moving inward, the living room unfolds into a series of formal and informal zones, unified by a sophisticated, hushed palette. Here, the design leans into texture over colour; white panelled walls, subtle mouldings and marble floors create a rhythmic backdrop. It is a space designed to breathe, where the architecture provides a calm stage for the family's daily life. The restraint shown here ensures that the home feels timeless, rooted in a shared sense of grace that appeals to every generation under its roof.



Dramatic Intervals

If the living area is a study in neutrality, the dining room is its theatrical soul. In a bold, controlled gesture, the space is entirely colour-drenched in a deep crimson umber. This immersive saturation extends across the walls and ceiling, framing a marble-veined table and sculptural lighting. It is a room designed for the lost art of lingering conversations, proving that even in a home dedicated to minimalism, there is always room for a moment of high-impact drama.

Zoned for Intimacy

The private quarters are choreographed along a central passage, ensuring a fluid transition between social and personal spaces. Each room possesses a distinct vernacular; the den features deep green wooden panelling that flows seamlessly into an expertly tiled en-suite, while the nursery serves as a whimsical retreat. With forest-inspired murals and warm wood underfoot, the nursery is a "storybook" environment designed to evolve alongside the family's youngest member. At the terminus of the home, two master suites face one another—mirroring the home's ethos of composed, quiet luxury.

A Material Legacy

The tactile soul of Evelyn House lies in its material honesty. From parquet and bespoke wood flooring to mixed metals and jewel-like powder rooms, every surface was chosen for its ability to age gracefully. Completed within an ambitious eight-month timeline, the project eschews the more is more philosophy of modern luxury. Instead, it relies on the clarity of its planning and the richness of its textures to create a sanctuary that is as deeply liveable as it is beautiful.

In an era of disposable aesthetics, Evelyn House stands as a poignant reminder that true luxury is found in the details that endure. By prioritising the human experience of space, light, air and ease of movement, this residence has become more than just a house; it is a contemporary-classic sanctuary tailored for the rhythms of a family that values both heritage and the future.





CAREFULLY CRAFTED
(clockwise from left) View of the house from the pond; daughter's bedroom on the first floor; the kitchen with a breakfast nook



Heritage Healed

As we seek sanctuary from our hyper connected lives, Ayesh Baganbari in Kolkata stands as a testament to the art of slow living

By MONICA KHOSLA BHARGAVA

Photographs by PHOTOGRAPHIX INDIA

This isn't just a renovation; it is a love letter to the Baganbari—the quintessential Bengali country house born from 19th century colonial elegance. When I acquired this 1.5-acre property in Barasat in 2006, the gardens were a wild tangle and the 1,650 sq ft structure was crumbling. Yet, the soul of the place was unmistakable. Named 'Ayesh' (meaning relaxation) in 1967 by the legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray, who shared a bond over Western classical music with the original owner, Dr. Adi Gazder, the home was built for the very purpose of unwinding. My mission was to decode its architectural DNA and reset it for a contemporary lifestyle.



STANDING OUT
(clockwise from right) Curved staircase; bedroom on the ground floor; each window of the hall is designed to frame the view of the garden; artwork on boundary wall by artist Gopal Naskar is inspired by the blooms of the central bottlebrush tree; the verandah



Architect Monica Khosla Bhargava is the founder of Kham Consultants, a Kolkata-based firm known for excellence in architecture, interior design, and urban design
www.khamconsultants.co.in

FACT FILE

Project Name
Ayesh Baganbari

Studio
Kham Consultants

Architect
Monica Khosla
Bhargava

Site Area
65,340 sq ft



Respecting the Compass

One of the most intriguing aspects of Ayesh was its orientation. Unlike modern homes that align with the street, this house ignored the road entirely, turning its gaze toward True North. Positioned dead-centre of the plot, it was once a fortress of privacy, guarded by heavy iron grilles and high window sills because it lacked a proper boundary wall.

My first act of liberation was to strip away those grilles and drop the sill levels. By opening up the facade, I allowed the interiors to finally breathe, inviting the lush landscape inside. The ground floor remains the heart of the home, featuring a sprawling hall and a bedroom suite, but I replaced the structurally fatigued

staircase with a sculptural steel centrepiece that feels more like a work of art than a utility.

Terracotta and Tradition

Design in Bengal is inseparable from its earth. The Barasat-Basirhat region is famous for its first-class kilns and the nearby archaeological site of Chandraketugarh, home to some of the world's earliest terracotta. It was only natural to let these local materials lead the way.



In keeping with the Baganbari tradition of spartan luxury, I curated the interiors with movable, multi-use furniture. This flexibility ensures the home remains maintenance-free and adaptable. A crowning jewel of the renovation is the Tulsi Mancha, commissioned in 2007 from sculptor Ramkumar Manna. This terracotta masterpiece is now recognised as one of the most unique in Bengal, serving as a spiritual and visual anchor for the property.

A Landscape Left Untouched

To me, the trees were the true architects of the land. Before laying a single stone for the driveway, I surveyed every existing trunk to ensure not a single tree would be felled. The resulting driveway is a deliberate, angular path lined with Ashoka trees that keeps the house hidden from view, building a sense of anticipation until you reach the Tulsi Mancha.

We also looked backward to move forward with sustainability. The rear of the property drains naturally into a pukur (pond), while the front directs water toward the roadside canal. We even integrated composting pits to keep the ecosystem self-sustaining.

Echoes of the 1950s

The charm of Ayesh lies in the layers of time. The gol ghar, a traditional thatched garden folly, has been a fixture here since the 1950s. We renew its thatch every five years, preserving the original railway benches and tables where Dr. Gazder and Satyajit Ray might have once discussed Bach or Beethoven. Even the caretaker's cottage, with its sloped tiled roofs reminiscent of an English country cottage, pays homage to this cross-cultural history.

In an era of rapid development, Ayesh Baganbari is a rare survivor. A bridge between the colonial sophistication of the 19th century and the ecological consciousness of 2026, it celebrates the quiet, the green, and the soulful.

A THOUSAND LATTICES

Step inside an Aurangabad home that uses geometry, shading and craft to negotiate heat and habitation

By MEHAR DEEP KAUR

Photographs by YADNYESH JOSHI

What happens when geometry becomes the first language of a home? In the case of this three-storeyed structure in Aurangabad, Kaushal Tatiya Architects makes geometry a survival strategy, climatic negotiation and memory device all at once. Two brothers, transitioning from Shirur, Pune brought with them the embodied memory of a wada, the spatial logic of a home-shop typology and an attachment to wood and pattern that had shaped their former lives.

A Facade of Resilience

“They had lived within traditional motifs,” notes Sweety Muttha, who helmed the architectural vision. “Our approach was to give those elements a contemporary interpretation, by transforming nostalgia



MATERIAL HARMONY

(clockwise from left) Children's room with circular motifs; ribbed wood media wall; semi-open foyer with granite underfoot; hand-cut wooden lattices punctuate the stone facade; the interiors mirror the facade's geometry





FACT FILE

Studio Kaushal Tatiya
Architects, Pune

**Founder and Principal
Architect**

Sweetie Muttha

Area 8,000 sq ft

Location Aurangabad

Design Team Sweetie Muttha,
Kaushal Tatiya, Kasturi Nirhali

into functional geometry.” With Aurangabad’s unforgiving heat, the west-facing plot demanded resilience. Ergo, the facade is conceived as a sculpture of folded planes—angular volumes that protrude and recede. Stone cladding armours select surfaces and shading comes through a breathtaking system of 1,000 hand-cut wooden lattices, their tongue-and-groove joinery creating a climate-responsive kinetic screen. Pit against pale concrete, each teak panel bears a diamond-within-grid pattern, a contemporary translation of traditional jali work that tempers the afternoon light.

Material Continuity

The entrance door, a dramatic grid of teak panels studded with metal bosses, punctuates this dynamic plane, its warm honey tones glowing against the rough-cut stone surround. Crossing the threshold, granite unfolds across the semi-open foyer’s floor in an organic schema, shape shifting into seating

and planters. Hand-dressed stonewalls echo the facade’s oblique character—establishing continuity between exterior and interior.

A Quiet Canvas

Inside, Muttha exercises restraint with a neutral palette of greys, whites, and browns. “We wanted the motifs and silhouettes to command attention,” she explains. “Such assertive forms needed a minimal backdrop.” Cement-based underfoot maintains thermal comfort, while lime-based texture paint on walls and ceilings extend the cooling strategy.

Form, meet Function and Finesse

The living room turns subtly theatrical with its angular ceiling and tapering furniture. In the dining area, the table legs reveal the architects’ fascination with stacked forms: solid wood polygons that

rise to support a marble top with natural veins. Yet not everything submits to angularity, curved edges on select seating soften the home’s bevelled lexicon. Fluted glass shutters, a lightly carved media console, and rose-gold profiles in the open kitchen continue the textural vocabulary. However, the most complete articulation of the home’s thesis manifests in the master suite: an entire wall of wood latticework creates a haptic backdrop for an ivory headboard. In the children’s room, geometry loosens into play: PU-finished circles, a staggered headboard, and a gently slanted doorframe.

“Detailing was the most challenging yet interesting aspect,” reflects Muttha. “We focused on handcraft while integrating machine technology. This intersection allowed us to achieve both precision and warmth.” The result is a family home that performs as intelligently as it is crafted, and honours context without succumbing to pastiche.



TACTILE TRANSITIONS

(clockwise from left) Architect Sweetie Muttha; the dining area; haptic elements dominate the master suite; stone-clad entryway with a teakwood door

Mehar Deep Kaur is a design writer and educator who specialises in research-led and editorial-grade narratives @mehardeep_official (Instagram)

Last look
Design



ALCHEMY OF FAITH

**When creativity isn't
bound by tradition, the
past finds its future**

By RIDHI KALE

Storytelling with metal isn't new, but the way Ashiesh Shah treats it, the material becomes something scared, spiritual even. Born from his time at the Kumbh, the collection represents a two-year pilgrimage to the sweet spot where art, craft and faith meet with flair. The fitting backdrop for the collection, called Taamr, was the India Art Fair 2026; where you'll recognise ritualistic forms such as the *matka*, *urli* and *lingam*, but they've been cheekily repositioned alongside stone and metal. That said, these pieces aren't frozen in time. The copper surfaces are engineered to evolve, deepening in character (and patina) as they age. Taamr is a brilliant, shimmering ode to history, but with a serious glow-up.

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