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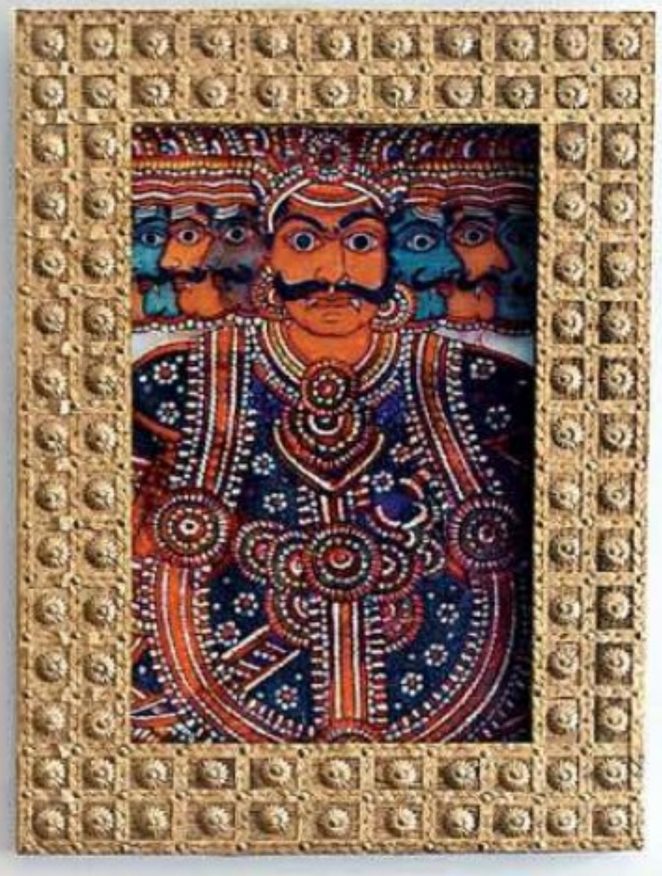

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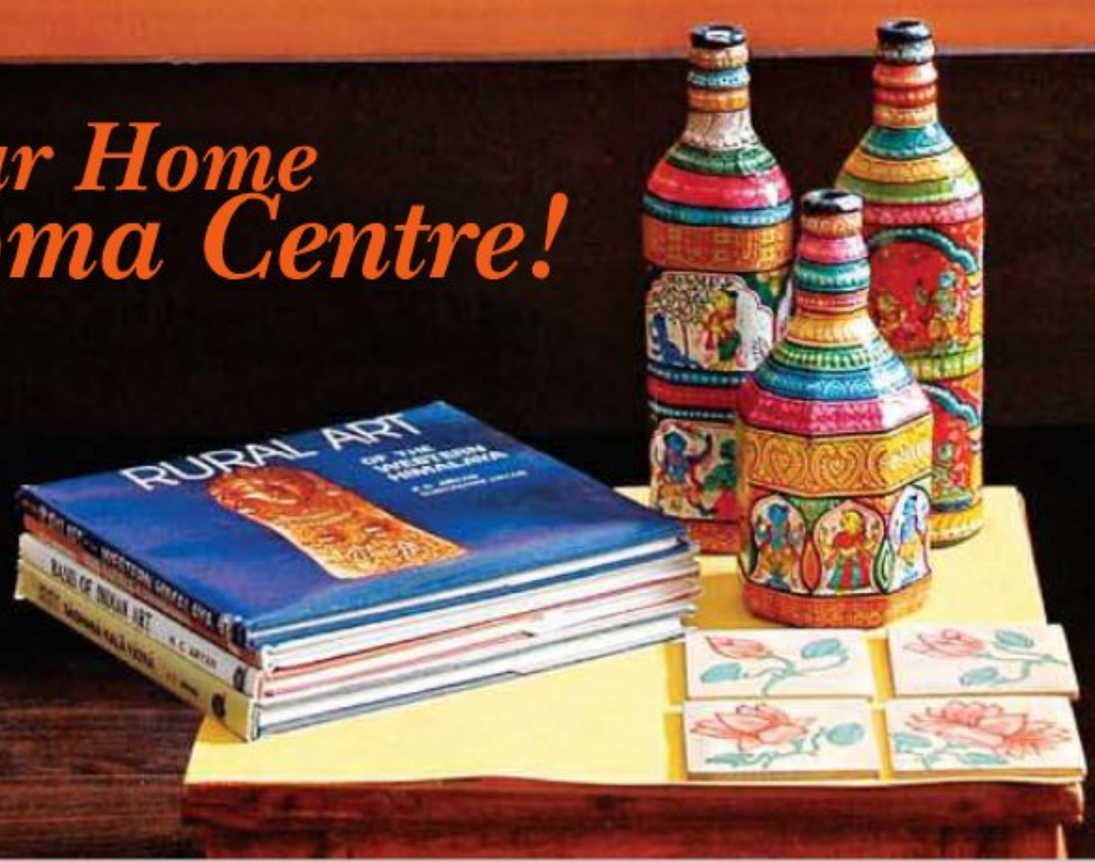

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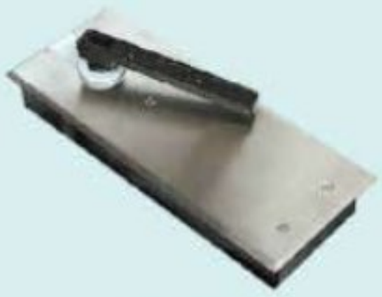

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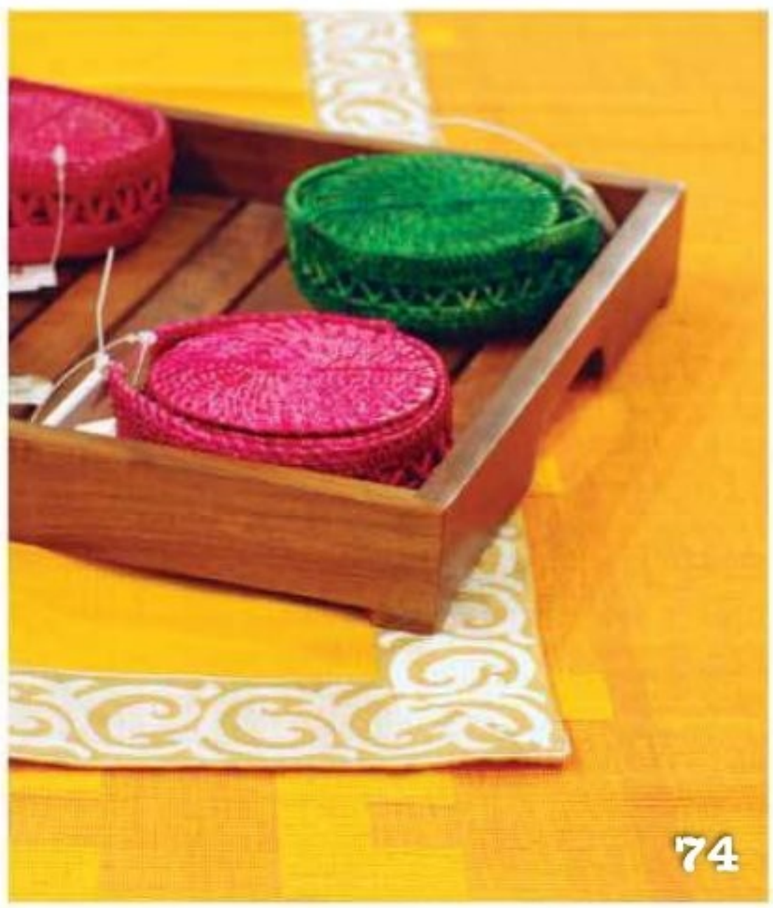

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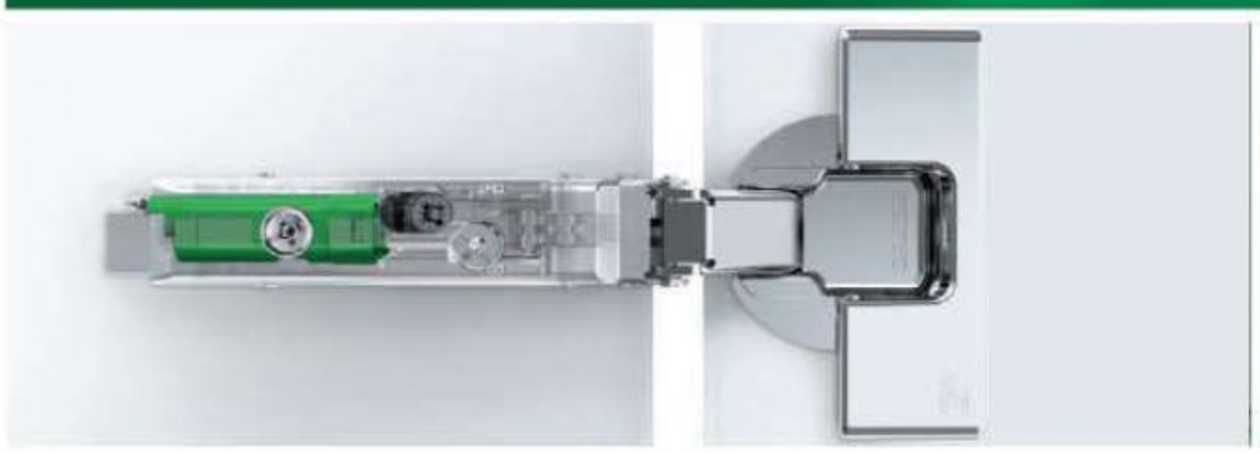

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Home coming

Some time back, I remember running around like a headless chicken in the attempt to furnish my entire house... Furniture, sheets, upholstery, et al. That it was a nightmarish experience exacerbated by the fact that there was so much to choose from and so little information to make sense of everything is an understatement. Cotton or linen? Velvet or chenille? Silk or polyester? What would retain the least dog hair? Which fabric would fall like a dream? Is there any way to make curtain holders look pretty?

I battled all these questions on my own and ultimately unearthed the answers. If you are similarly confused, here's our fabric special to the rescue. From five indigenous looks which can transform your home into an ethnic haven to all the information on fabric choice that you'd want to lay your hands on to the perfect window dressing; your textile needs are totally sorted! As are any questions or doubts you may have had on making your home as fragrant as possible with Chenelle Rodrigues' tips on making your interiors an aromatic affair! Time for all the reed diffusers and scented candles to come out of hiding...

And hiding away is what you may want to do in a quaint bungalow in Nasik as Vanita Arora brings you the finer points of a house built on the banks of the river Godavari, one which successfully marries unique architectural expression with optimal use of space...

So go on, re-do, refurbish and rejoice!
Cheers!

Abha Srivastava
Editor

house warming

Our readers write in

KEEPING WATCH

I miss the 'Book Review' and 'Things We Love' pages. I hope those pages haven't been scrapped permanently? Additionally, wouldn't it be a great idea to feature luxurious spas that are mushrooming across the country?

Subeda Ali, Pune, Maharashtra

3D EFFECT

The August issue of IHG was completely different! I was pleasantly surprised by the cover. In fact, what surprised me more was the galore of 'Specials' inside. Lights.... Paints....Wallpapers... Wow! A complete action packed issue with loads of information. In the features section, I liked 'Eclectic Eccentricities' — very nice and quirky products. The team needs to work on more such quirky articles as they look good and automatically help in generating ideas for the house. How long will we readers have to wait to get our hands on the page 'Things We Love'?

Kannan Iyer, Chennai

A LITTLE MORE

The 'Real Home' and 'Project Watch' sections of TIHG are a breathtaking visual treat. Very real, very vibrant and very colourful. Project Watch gives us readers an insight into the latest projects on offer by the ever mushrooming fraternity of builders and developers across India. In fact, E3 homes are slowly taking over the more traditional homes. The amenities and facilities on offer are also world class. In Real Homes, the houses are large and spacious. In fact, I believe that TIHG should tap homes from rural India as well. They are not only beautiful, but also a mix of contemporary and traditional. As usual, awaiting the fifth anniversary issue with bated breath.

Shailesh Kapadia, Kutch, Gujarat

FUTURE PERFECT

As a regular reader, I am looking forward to TIHG's fifth anniversary, which is round the corner. I am positive that the magazine will give readers a treat in terms of content, visuals along with the information filled booklets (is it going to be two or three?). I have read the last four bumper anniversaries of TIHG, and was floored by the presentation. So the expectations this time are much higher! I am sure I won't be disappointed...

Ashmita Rane, Solapur, Maharashtra

CALLING SOUTH

Though TIHG does give its readers a lot of information on myriad topics, being a home related magazine, I feel it should feature at least two-three interviews or Q&A sessions with architects and interior designers from across India. That will help showcase the works of great talents and the readers will also get to learn something new in every issue. Another important aspect that TIHG should start focusing on is 'Home Away From Home' from the southern part of the country.

Saurabh Gupta, Lucknow, UP

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Photographed on location at The Great Eastern Home.

bacteria design

ORGANIC IDEAS

Pune recently saw more than 35 home décor and gardening enthusiasts gather for an event organised by Ek Titli, partnered with The Ideal Home and Garden. This 'Go Green' event focussed on organic gardening and attracted many nature lovers, students and busy professionals. The grand success of the event just goes to show that there are many keen enthusiasts for organic gardening!

TILED FOR LIFE!

Kajaria World offers fabulously creative interior and lifestyle enhancing options. It's a complete new world of designs and innovations. Cutting edge technology and world class features make Kajaria World a premier destination for tiles and the latest collection includes a wide range of hard wood tiles. The digital technology used in the process of making these glazed vitrified tiles gives them a real wood finish on the surface. Due to minimum porosity, these tiles are stain-proof and durable. Apart from hard wood, Kajaria World has also introduced the Palladium and Geology series. These glazed vitrified tiles offer versatile use for walls and floors alike. They look like natural marble and stone and possess a special lappato finish.

For more information, log on to www.kajariaworld.com

LUXURY UNLIMITED

World Bazaar, a premium store famous for home furniture and décor accessories, has just added the award winning brand of home furniture — Locsin International — from Philippines to its collection. Super stylish with contemporary designs, the furniture in this collection is made by using indigenous raw materials such as rattan, wicker, iron, seagrass, abaca and handmade paper. Priced between Rs 95,000 and Rs 2,25,000.

World Bazaar, 843/1, Mehrauli Gurgaon Road, Ghitorni, New Delhi 110030

SWITCHING GEARS

Looking for the right switch? Havells India Limited, India's leading player in the electronic segment, has expanded its switchgear manufacturing operations with an additional plant at Sahibabad Industrial Area, Ghaziabad (U.P.). Air Circuit Breaker (ACB), Moulded Case Circuit Breaker (MCCB), Control Gear range and Changeover Switch are among the main products to be manufactured at the plant.

For more information, mail Mohd.eqram@havells.com

ELEGANCE INC.

Bring in the festive season with a brand new wardrobe from KIWA, an Ikian venture. The new range of falcon wardrobes from KIWA is sure to add a spark of flamboyance and sophistication to your interiors. Available in matt finishes, these wardrobes come with plenty of shelf space.

Tel: 080-28416556

GIFTED!

Choosing a gift for that fussy buddy just got easier, thanks to Eco Corner, the eco-store that has added pen stands and bowls to its stoneware collection. These hand-crafted products are uniquely designed and each item exhibits individuality, character and a certain quirkiness.

You can visit the store at: Eco Corner, 3rd Floor, The Palladium, High Street Phoenix, Lower Parel, Mumbai.

SHOWER POWER

This monsoon, drench yourself with the new thunder rain shower collection from Johnson Bath. This shower offers you the combined experience of a rain shower and a smooth massage due to its high pressure water flow. Available in round and square shapes, these showers are durable, with customised features.

LIGHT YEARS AHEAD!

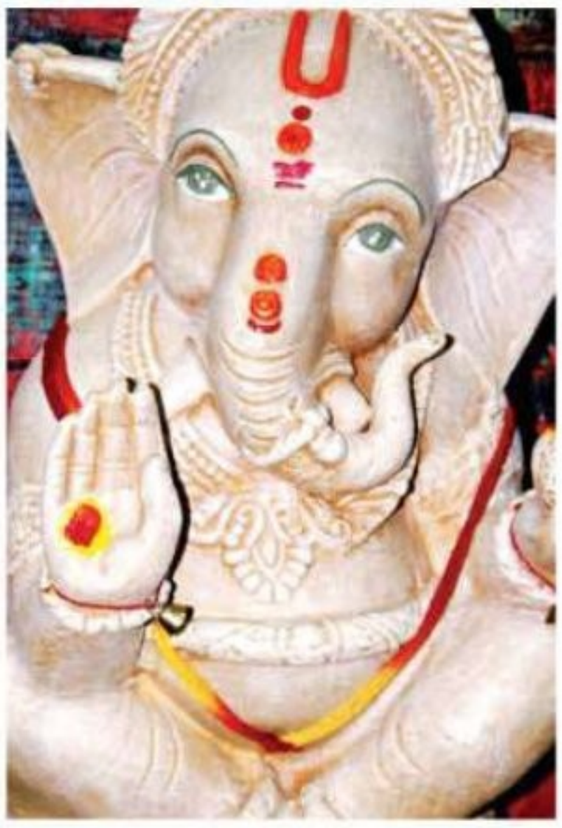
With the stupendous success of the lighting forum in 2010, The Economic Times ACETECH team has re-branded the lighting forum as 'International Lighting Summit 2011' for the year 2011. The event will be held with The Economic Times' ACETECH 2011. The summit will take place on November 4th, 5th 2011, at the Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai, with a vision to reach out to the lighting industry, and ensuring that this platform becomes the meeting point for major lighting brands in India.

For more information, a mail at ils@etacetech.com

ON THE TABLE

Casa Paradox is out with yet another scintillating collection – Incidental Furniture — that comprises a wide assortment of side tables introduced by famous design personality, Raseel Gujral Ansal. The products focus on design functionality and aesthetics. From round tops to hexagons and marble to leather tops, you are sure to be spoilt for choice here!

For more information, log on to www.casaparadox.com



THE VENERABLE ONE

While you make the necessary preparations for Ganpati, don't forget to check out pottery artist Anju Kumar's latest creations as she has just unveiled five brilliantly different looks of the deity. Each idol is intricately carved in terracotta, deftly using master strokes to give it a stone or metallic finish. Backdrops in carved stone finish *jaalis* create a dramatic impact and enhance the look. Priced between Rs 4,500 and Rs 6,00,000.

You can visit her store at:
Ayaan, The Gallery Mall, Ground Floor, Mehrauli-Gurgaon Road, New Delhi

UBER CHIC

If contemporary furniture is your thing, then Maison, from the house of International Furniture Brands, is exactly what you are looking for. Maison has recently opened its doors in Mumbai and the 3,500 sqft store showcases the latest collections from some of the world's finest design houses, including Fendi Casa, the visionnaire collection by Ipe Cavalli, Christopher Guy and Bolier. To get a taste of luxury, just walk into:

Maison, Block 22-23, 1st Floor, Raghuvanshi Mills Compound, Lower Parel, Mumbai
Tel: 022- 4004 2565

TOOL TOWN

Here's good news for your garden. Bosch Power Tools recently unveiled its latest range of corded and cordless innovative lawn and garden tools, powered by Lithium Ion technology. The power tools comprise lawn mowers, cordless shrub and grass shear (ISIO 2), cordless trimmer, cordless hedge cutters, cordless chain saws, shredders and the corded range of these products. The tools are priced between Rs 6,000 and Rs 59,000.

For more information, log on to www.boschindia.com

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BEAUTIFUL SPACES

FCML has recently unveiled the FCML luxurious bathrooms 'New Space' at The FCML store at Sultanpur. Spread over an area of 3,500 sqft, the showroom displays top global brands like Gessi, Devon and Devon, Catalano, Milldue, Falper and Laufen. The products have been placed in lifestyle settings with elements of a stylish living room reflecting in every corner. We like!

The FCML Store,
Sultanpur Chowk,
Sultanpur, Near CRC
Building, MG Road,
New Delhi
Tel: 011-26800482

ON THE HOME FRONT

Havells India Limited is thinking big these days. The brand has forayed into the home appliance segment with a range that includes juicers, mixer grinders, hand blenders, choppers, steam and dry irons, pop-up toasters, sandwich makers, room heaters, electric cookers, induction cookers and kettles. The products boast of international quality, durability and performance.

GREEN CRUSADE

With our natural energy resources fast depleting and the threat of global warming looming dangerously close, green buildings are very much the need of the hour. To meet this need, Fenesta has introduced green windows that are made from energy efficient materials. The windows are noise-proof and dust-proof and require no maintenance. They last longer and save much-desired energy.

For more details, log on to www.fenesta.com

TRIBAL TRAIL

It's time to catch the vibrant Gond art exhibition on Dots and Dashes, the very best of Jangarh Kalam at Must Art Gallery, Lado Sarai, New Delhi. The typical Gond art form with dots and dashes filled with bright luminescent colours are a veritable treat for the eyes. The exhibition will be held between September 5th and 30th, 2011, from 10 am to 7 pm.

For more details, call on 9650477072

FLOORED!

Wooden floorings have always had timeless appeal, inherent elegance and aesthetic charm that can accentuate any décor. Inspired by these characteristics, Ego Flooring has launched a nature therapy range of wooden floorings, based on the unique therapeutic properties of wooden floorings. With benefits of easy maintenance, hassle-free and quick installation and durability, these wooden floors are an excellent option.

www.egofloors.com

FESTIVE COLLECTION

Portico, India's leading and premium home décor and furnishings brand has unveiled its latest collection - Eldora. The collection offers innovative and contemporary designs with extensive use of rich and bold colours. The products are priced from Rs 2,299 onwards and go up to Rs 4,999; and are available at all leading stores across India.

For details log on to www.porticoindia.com

WATER WORKS

Venus, one of the oldest manufacturers of water heaters in India has introduced a new range — Magma — with porcelain enamel glass lined tank. Available in vertical and horizontal models, the porcelain tanks enable high and long-lasting performance. The product is available across 2,500 dealers and distributors all over India.

For more details, visit www.venushomeappliances.com

FURNITURE POINT

Agua's inspiration this season is Gothic craftsmanship, modern simplicity and a contemporary look. This interesting fusion is evident in all their products, right from consoles, mirrors, candle stands and accent chairs to photo frames, dining tables, coffee tables, outdoor furniture, and lots more. So you know where to head to get the look of the season!

Agua Leisure Furniture, 57 Khizrabad, 2nd Floor, New Friends Colony, New Delhi
Tel: 091-9810124532

CRYSTAL CLEAR

The Era crystal collection is a range de Royalé, the most premium symbol of power, opulence and success. You can feel the elation through your hands as they grip the Swarovski crystals embedded operating knobs that spell aristocracy and affluence. Enjoy an experience in opulence!

ALL CHARMED OUT

Elvy Lifestyle, one of the finest names in the sphere of home décor, takes pride in introducing an innovative range of lucky charms that spread positivity and radiance. The collection includes – turtle (Rs 595 each), peacock (Rs 545 each) and dolphin (Rs 995 each).

Elvy's, Shop 17-18, 1st Floor, Pacific Mall, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi
Tel: 0124-4578888

STONY ACCENTS

Incentive Foundation presents an exhibition of exclusive, hand crafted stone sculpture selections from Tengenenge, Zimbabwe. These sculptures easily translate into art for indoor and outdoor exhibits. The exhibition will be held at the Regalia Art Gallery, 22 DLF Mega Mall, Golf Course Road, Gurgaon till September 15, 2011 from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm, except for Tuesdays.

For details, call on 0124-4068955.

WELL-SCREENED...

Light up your space with an exciting range of decorative screens from Klove. These room dividers add an element of chic to your interiors and are artistic and distinct tools to separate space. The decorative panels from Klove will definitely add to the visual interest in your rooms! We love this distinctive style.

Log on to www.klovestudio.com for more details

WEATHER SHIELD

Elegant designs with curves for beauty and comfort, a perfect casual outdoor lounging choice for the deck, patio, pool or beaches. The latest collection of sun loungers from Loom Crafts is crafted to produce splendid pieces that are strong, stylish and weather-resistant. It is made of superior quality woven resin, and features a spacious storage basket. The stylish sun loungers are available in all major cities in India.

For more details, log on to www.loomcrafts.com

UNDISPUTED LEADER

HPL is India's leading manufacturer of electrical equipment, such as switchgears, electronic energy meters and energy management systems. The brand has recently introduced 'luminaries' that are suitable for a wide range of indoor applications like T5 Tubular Fluorescent Lamps, CFLs (Compact Fluorescent Lamps)and LEDs (Light-Emitting Diodes).

For further details log on to www.hplindia.com

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If you want a high by just looking at a bar, then Portsidecafe has just the thing for you. Its intriguing bar, made of teak wood and bronze coloured leather, opens out to reveal mirror tiles and a surprising red lining. And these lush interiors can be used to stock your precious stack of bottles. Comfortably priced at Rs 1,82,000, this is sure to become the talking point of your living area!

For more information, log on to www.portsidecafe.com

ITALIAN MAGIC!

Sink in with style with the new Nicolleti sofas from the house of Tangent. High on style, the sofas are made in Italy and designed by Giuseppe Nicoletti, who is famous for his 'sofa art' since 1960. The sofas are available in Italian leather, metal frame and ecological polyurethane foam. They are high on durability too.

For more information, log on to www.tangent.co.in

TRAVEL AND TOMES!

To promote India's image as a travel destination that accords you the best of hospitality, tourism and history, White Flag Media and Communications has launched a book – Hotels and Resorts in India. The book captures the unique experience of India. Great as a gift for friends visiting from abroad!

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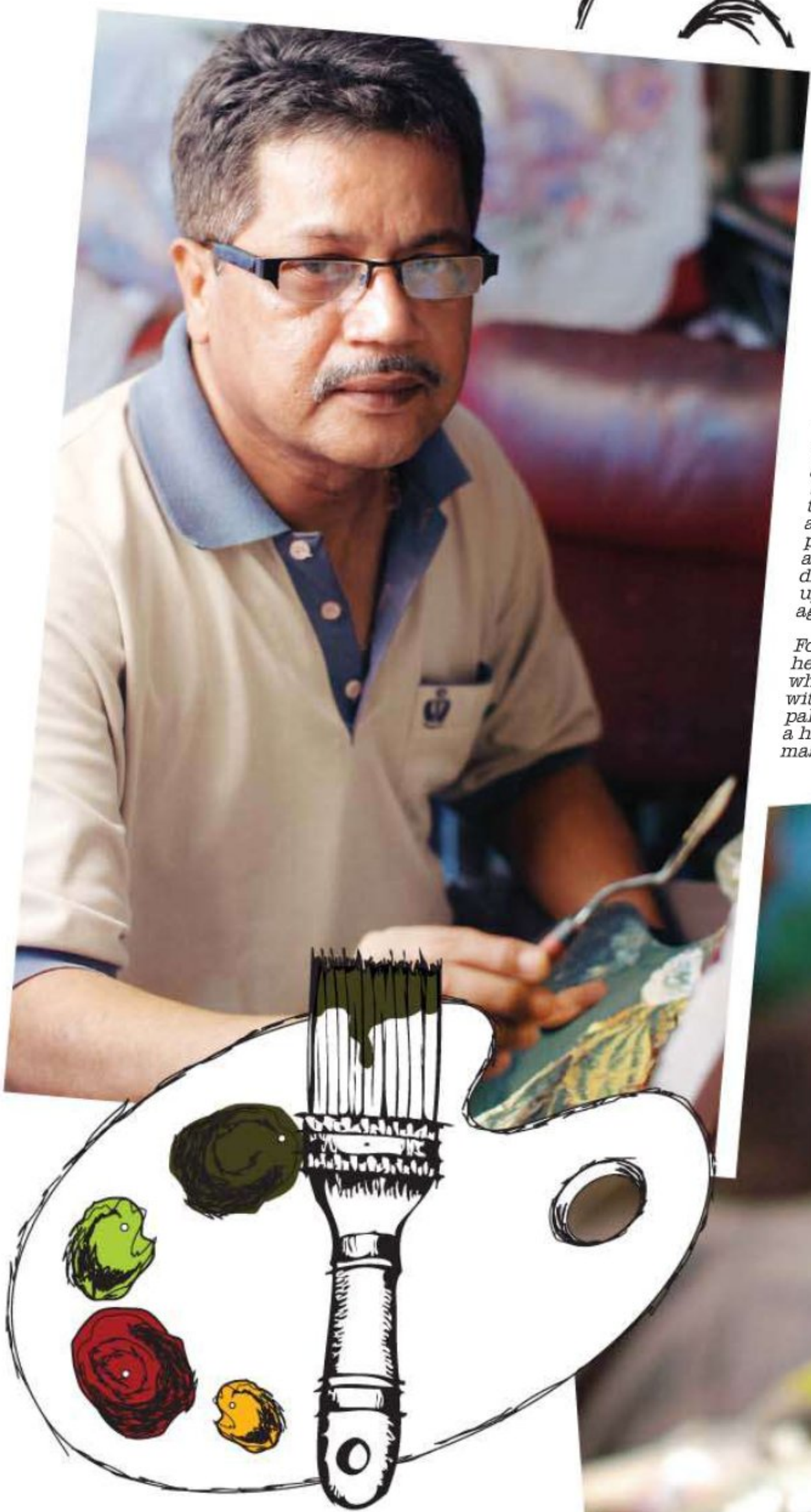
Curiosity Quotient

Artist Ganesh Panda picks a palette knife over a paint-brush

Chenelle Rodrigues Amit Bhandare

Right at first glance, Ganesh's paintings leave you with an impression of multiple layers and colour co-ordinated strokes. And, that's exactly the kind of curious interest the artist works towards generating. He begins labouring on his canvas from the top-left and completes the painting with the last stroke at the bottom-right. "Add-ons may follow to put in the last touches on an intended vista, but largely, there's no scope for corrections. Any patchwork made becomes apparent on the final presentation and the painting loses its flawless appeal," he adds.



GANESH PANDA *hails from a small village in Orissa. On completing a degree in fine arts from the Government College of Art and Craft, at Khalikot in Orissa, he set out to create a name for himself in the big, bad city of Mumbai. Despite the hardships of making the transition from a sleepy village to the big city taking a big toll, Ganesh persevered and slowly yet steadily, progressed from being a visualiser to an art director before he set up his own advertising agency.*

For the last 20 years, he has resorted to doing what he's uniquely gifted with – painting with a palette knife – a skill only a handful of artists have mastered. His control over the knife, confident strokes and a profusion of colours, which he so seamlessly exhibits with passion and enthusiasm, speak for themselves in their final manifestation. However, what really draws you to the person is his simplicity and humility; a glance, a brief acquaintance or even a long chat with him reveals a deeply-rooted person trying to chalk out a living. His works however convey his true artistic bent, creative and intuitive avatar.

Ganesh has had 10 solo exhibitions in various art galleries in Mumbai and has participated in group showings all over the world. His art has found pride of place on walls in India, the US, Holland, Kenya, Switzerland and France among other countries.

"The palette knife gives me the opportunity to interact with my work in a tactile and expressionistic way," articulates the artist, Ganesh Panda. His media are merely a palette knife and oil paints (without a mixing agent). The upshot - a painting with exciting textures and fewer edges!

Ganesh, like so many artisans, much prefers working in solitary confinement. "I can't give my 100 percent when I'm surrounded by people. Even my neighbours have learnt to take a prior appointment, rather than dropping in unannounced," claims the artist. Steeped in fervour, the painter can fashion an entire canvas within an hour or so. What's time consuming is the settling of the paints and the drying of the canvas. His medium being oils, generally takes longer to dry and, as mentioned earlier, he employs them without a mixing agent. "I've experimented with acrylic paints, water colours, etc. but for me nothing can match the effect which is achieved with oil paints. They are the perfect fit to my style of painting," he stresses.

Ganesh chanced upon his tool - the palette knife - by accident, at a painting competition in college. Walking away with the prize sealed the deal between him and the palette knife as his tool of choice!

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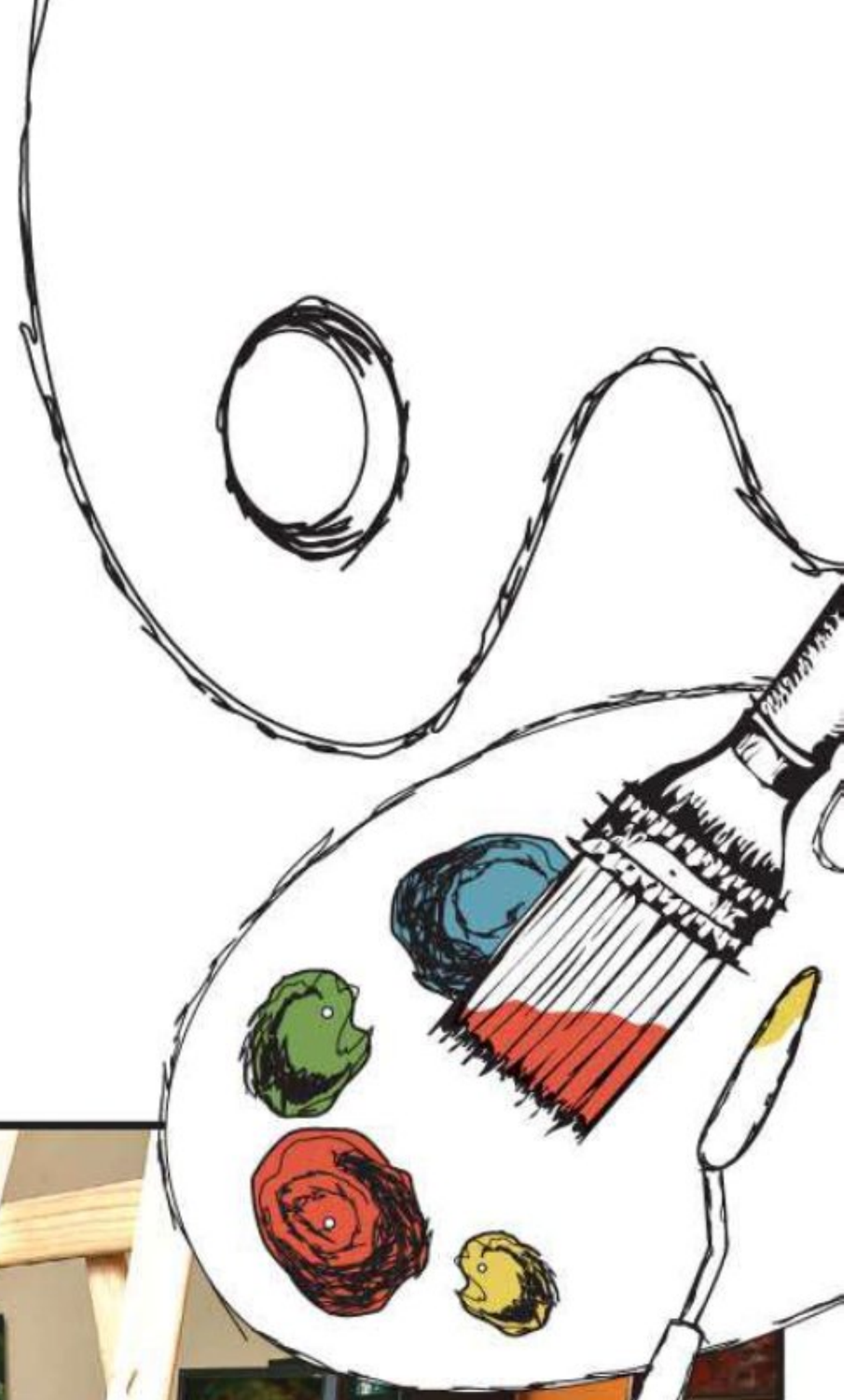
whether it is for big canvases or small, Ganesh has been using the same palette knife ever since he took to this art full-time

"Painters are often judged by the number of exhibitions they have held, the art galleries where they show at, whether they have overseas sales, how long the artist has been in the field, etc. Canvases are also critiqued on the same grounds and the quantum of time taken to complete a painting is taken into consideration as well - longer the time, more the value attached. Even if prospective customers have been satisfied on all these factors, most of them do not hesitate to bargain on the asking price. It gives me immense pleasure to make a sale to a client who acquires it out of sheer love as they adore and simply must have that piece of art; they appreciate its value and their purchase is not based on trivial factors or simply as an investment. It's a joy to make such a sale," Ganesh concludes.



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CANVAS SIZE	PRICING (approx)
26 inches x 26 inches	41k
26 inches x 36 inches	50k
3 feet x 3 feet	80k

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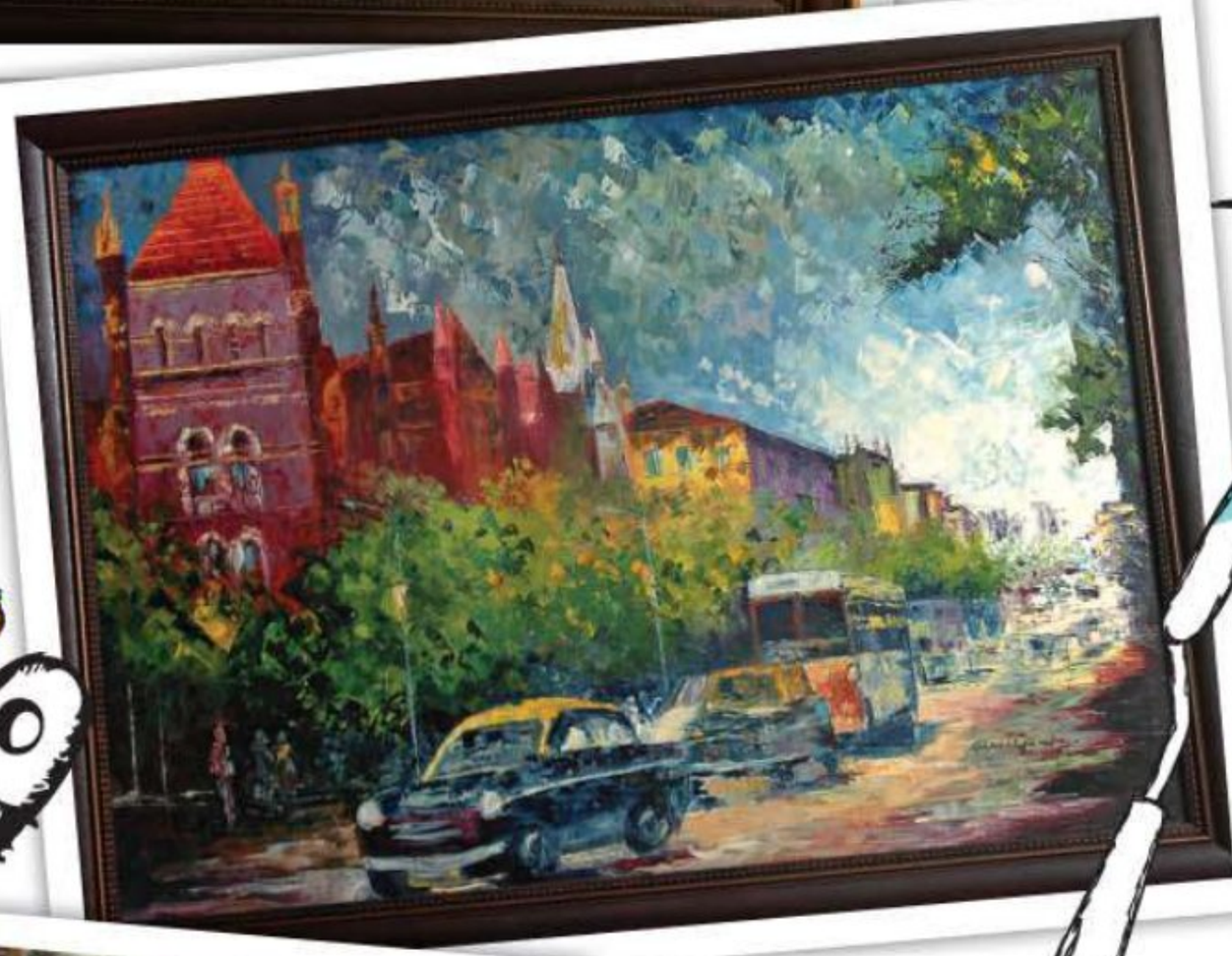
2011 - Jehangir Art Gallery
2006 - Bajaj Art Gallery
2005 - The Art Entrance
2005 - Standard Charted
2004 - Art Walk Gallery, Oberoi
2004 - Gallerie Leela
2003 - Nehru Centre Art Gallery
2003 - Bajaj Art Gallery
2002 - Dcb Art Gallery



Some professionals do recommend the use of anti-fungus sprays, silicon gel and boric powder. Ganesh is of the opinion that these are unnecessary.

DO'S AND DON'TS... AND LONG MAY THEY LIVE!

- Do not expose your work of art to direct sunlight. Sunshine causes the colour to fade
- Keep your canvas away from any kind of moisture. If need be run a hair dryer on a low setting lightly over the damp area
- Dust your picture gently with a lint-free cloth so as not to affect the painting's texture
- When storing artwork, covering it in bubble-wrap is a good option

For details see Store Map

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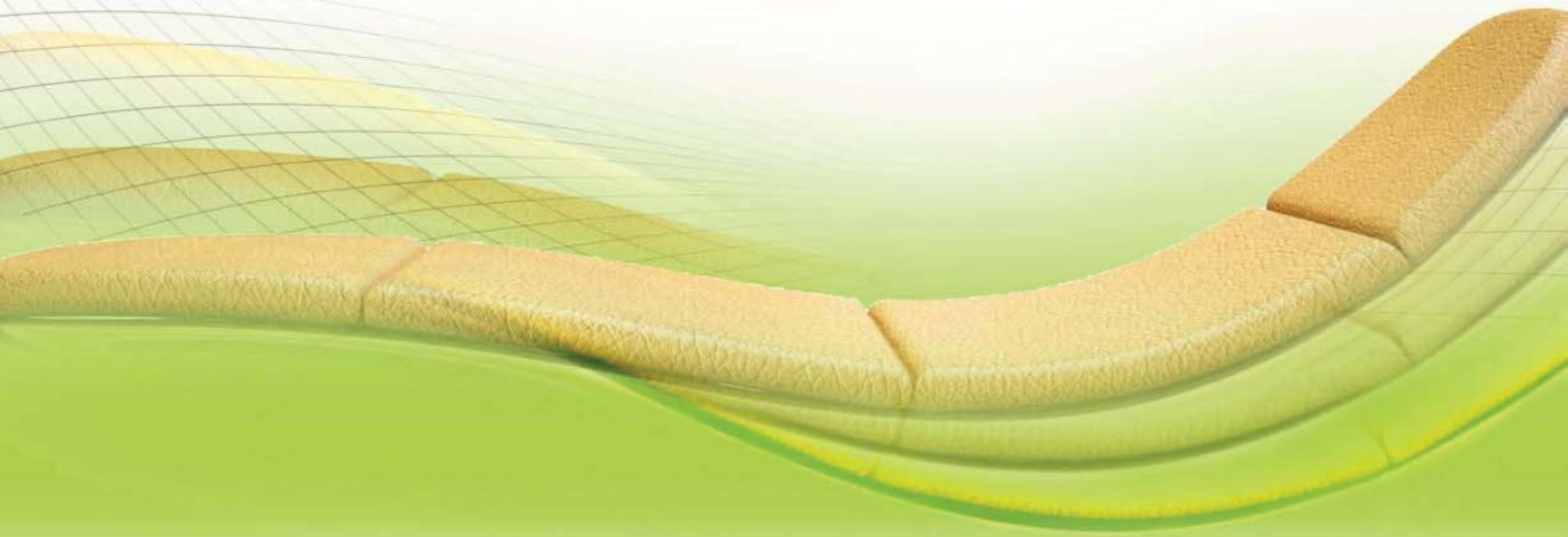

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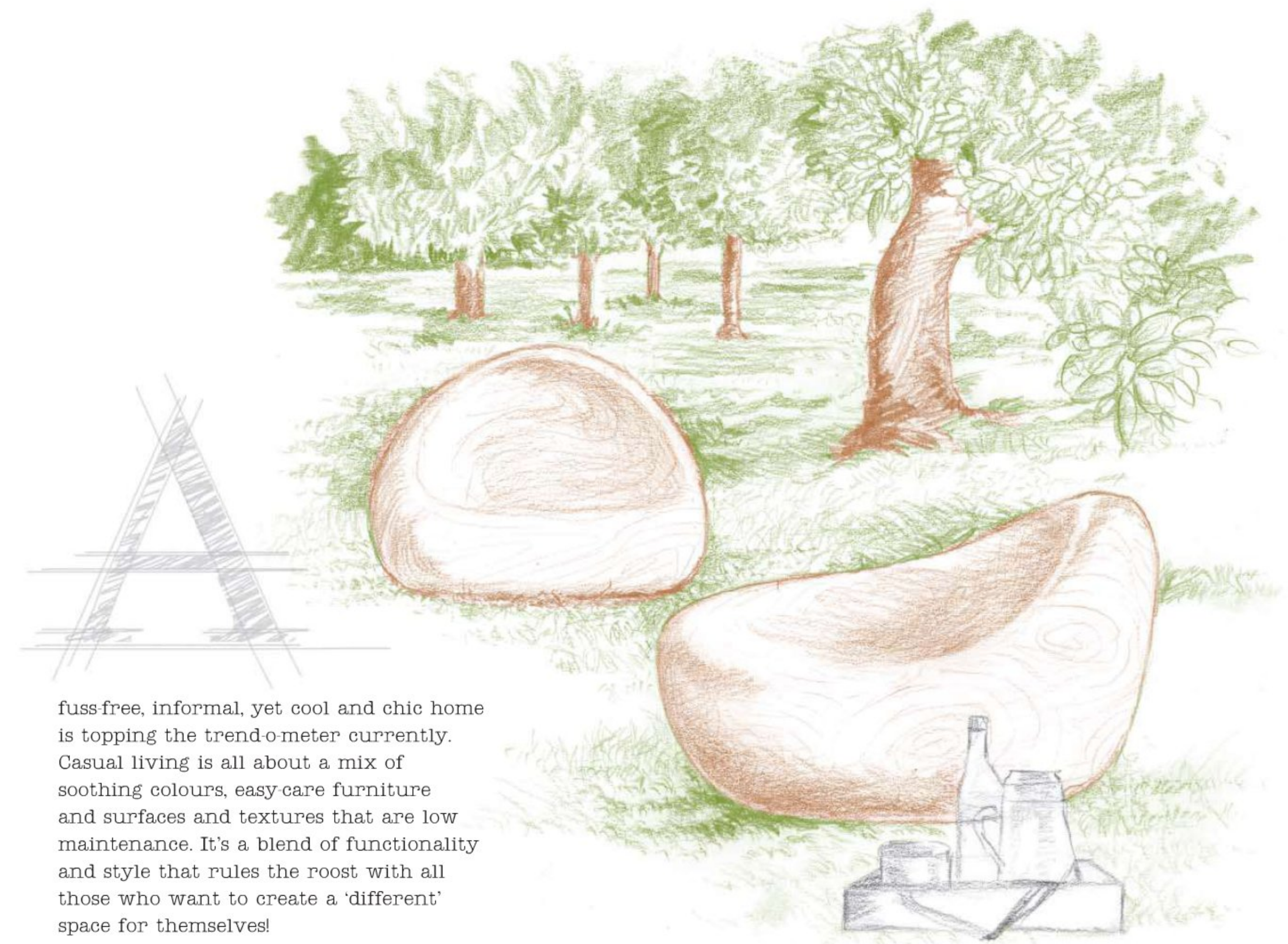

A fuss-free, informal, yet cool and chic home is topping the trend-o-meter currently. Casual living is all about a mix of soothing colours, easy-care furniture and surfaces and textures that are low maintenance. It's a blend of functionality and style that rules the roost with all those who want to create a 'different' space for themselves!

CASUAL ELEMENTS

For casual interiors, opt for soft and comfortable furniture. Upholstered pieces are usually oversized and slip covered. Clean-cut, linear furniture and accessories in neutral or soft pastels are perfect for any casual setting

- *The upholstery is usually textured rather than shiny. Interesting weaves of natural fibres like cotton, linen, wool are typical. Pick bedding which is crush free.*
- *For special accents on upholstered pieces, add ruffles, pleats, buttons, ribbon or cording.*
- *Go for furniture that's large and horizontal rather than vertical, tall or petite. For instance, a chunky table will lend a comfortable feeling while providing space for storage as well.*
- *Antiques complement the casual style. Put together cherished accessories in simple arrangements and highlight neutral tones with splashes of colour. The idea is to place accessories in a different setting. For instance, pile up a collection of your favourite books on a table rather than stacking them on a shelf and place a bowl of potpourri beside them.*

CASUAL SHADES AND COLOURS

- *Your colour palette should include not just the walls, upholstery and floors but accessories as well. Soft, light and pale colours such as cream, white, hues of blues and lighter shades of green work well for the style.*
- *For a rustic look, paint the interiors with darker tones of red and brown with creamy whites for a contrast.*
- *Casual furnishings are generally in neutral colours – tan, grey, beige or creamy white. Generous use of black, indigo and ink can also create the right look in a casual interior.*
- *A combination of vibrant colours along with a subtly neutral palette also works well for this look.*

SURFACES

- *Choose hardwood or regular wood, tile, stone or stained concrete for the floor.*
- *If you are using a carpet, it should not be too plush. Subtle geometric woven patterns and shaggy styles go with this look.*
- *Set the dining table with rugged stoneware, texture woven or fabric place mats, co-ordinated napkins, heavy glasses, stainless flatware, wooden bowls and iron or pewter accessories. The colours of the table should enhance the theme of the room, using either bold floral patterns, plain pieces, or soft and comfortable pastels.*

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LIGHTING

- *You can try bohemian lighting designs which are casual. A crystal chandelier amidst a few recessed lights or an eclectic mix of lamps as the sole light source in the room are perfect.*
- *Make a bold statement by bringing in odd fixtures.*
- *Giant pendant lights steal the show!*

FABRICS

- *The window treatment should be simple. Contrast lining fabric peeking out from the sides, cording or wide contrast banding, tab tops with buttons or ribbon details dress up the window. You can also add on a simple swag of fabric or fabric tie-backs if required.*
- *Windows can be enhanced with simple valances of fabrics, often layered over non-traditional drapery hardware. You can indulge your creativity by using a branch or an old iron pipe instead of the traditional curtain rod, to get the 'different' look! For tie-backs, you could use long iron nails or notched tree branches as well.*
- *Curtains are usually in neutral colours and fuss-free.*
- *Interesting natural fabrics can be used extensively. However, you could also opt for synthetic fabrics as they are very durable.*

INPUTS BY:
Interior Designer-
Monica Kamal

WATER WORKS

Your plumbing problems solved!

Write in to us at tihg@nextgenpublishing.net with your queries.

Q: Is re-glazing a bath tub a good solution to replacing it?

A: Yes, it is cost effective method. Bathtub re-glazing, also known as bathtub refinishing and bathtub resurfacing, is the process by which an old, worn out bathtub is restored by bonding a new glaze finish over the surface of the tub.

A bathtub can be re-glazed right in your bathroom without disturbing the existing tiles, fixtures or plumbing. The process takes about three to four hours and your bathtub is ready for use within 24 hours. As long as it is done properly and the care and maintenance guidelines are duly followed, bathtub re-glazing is an excellent cost effective alternative to replacing an old worn out bathtub.

Q: What is a vent for a toilet and where should it be located?

A: A vent for a toilet allows air to pass through the drainage system so that when you flush one toilet it doesn't suck the water out of all the other toilets in the house. Also, and more importantly, without a vent, a vacuum would be created when flushing that would potentially pull back sewer gas. The location of the vent varies from house to house. Older homes tend to have just one large vent that extends through the roof. In newer homes, local code now usually stipulates multiple vents. In either case, your best bet may be to get onto the roof and see if you can locate it (them) that way.

Q: What causes a toilet's tank to leak when flushed?

A: There are two possible causes for your toilet tank to leak when flushed. The most common is a fault with the gasket that sits between your tank and bowl. You would need to replace it. The second can be tricky. Check in your tank and make sure your fill tube is in the overflow. This tube fills your bowl when you flush. If it is out it can cause a leak even if your T-top is on.

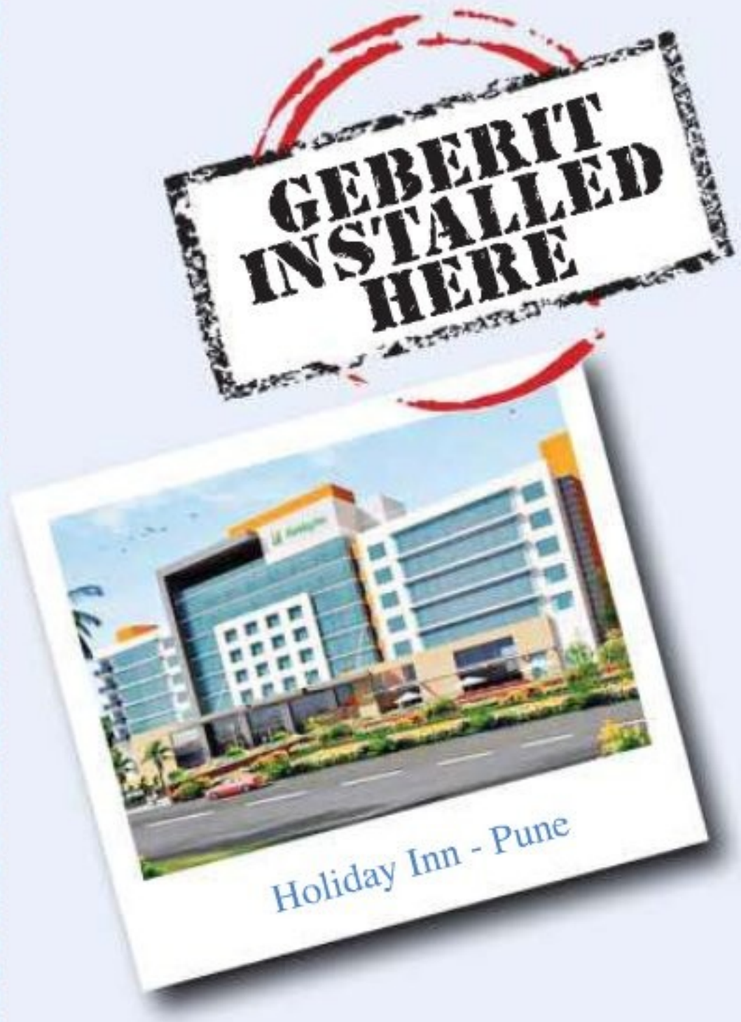
Q: Should a toilet closet flange fit into or over the PVC drain pipe?

A: It should fit into the PVC drain pipe and the joint should be sealed properly.

Q: What causes household plumbing to groan when the toilet is flushed?

A: There may be two or three possibilities for this.

1. Due to the pipe passing through the wall or slab not fixed properly to the wall
2. A loose washer on a shutoff valve that is vibrating in the flow of the water.
3. Noisy filling valve inside the tank.



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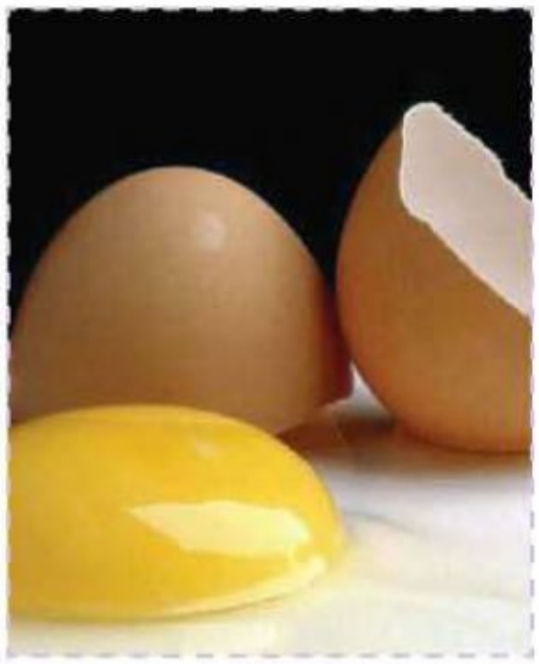
GEBERIT

1

Super food oatmeal also makes for a heavy duty hand cleanser. Scrub very dirty hands with a thick paste of oatmeal and water; rinse well.

2

Egg spill on the floor? Sprinkle salt, keep on for a few minutes and wipe clean with a paper towel.



Out of the Blue Cleaning Fixes

51 tips using everyday household items that moonlight as dirt-busting celebrities

Anaheeta Patell

3

Rid your home of pet hair with the help of a wet rubber dish-washing glove. Wipe your hand over dirty surfaces and the hair will stick right to it.

4

Don't discard the shells from hard-boiled eggs. Use them to clean the hard-to-reach places in bottles and vases. Drop some crushed shells in the bottle, add warm water with a drop of dish-washing liquid and give it a good swirl.

5

Surprisingly, white bread makes for an excellent duster for your canvas! It leaves no residue while attracting dust and doesn't pull up anything from your painting. Just gently dab a slice of bread on the surface to pick up dirt, dust and grime.

6

Keep your hands clean! Use bags as gloves to handle disgusting stuff that you just can't bring your bare hands to touch, like getting the gunk out of the kitchen sink or cleaning up after your dog (and you thought you were the master!). Wear the bag as you would a glove, pick up the nasty matter and then turn the bag inside out for easy disposal.

7

Repurpose your lint roller to act as a duster. Run the roller in an up - down motion on the outside of your lampshade to leave it spiffy clean.

8

Deter bugs from your house plants and homes by adding some coffee grounds to your potted or garden plants.

9

Cleanse your coffee grinder with rice. Mill a handful of grains and the fine particles will absorb stale odours and clean out residual grounds and oil. Discard rice and wipe clean.

10

Put car wax to use in the bathroom by polishing faucets, sinks, tiles and shower doors. The wax leaves behind a protective barrier against water and soap build-up, so your bathroom is gleaming clean all week long.

11

Run a stream of three percent hydrogen peroxide over your toothbrushes to disinfect. Be sure to rinse thoroughly in cold water before using the brushes again.

12

Mothballs prevent silver from tarnishing. Stash a few with your precious ware to keep it shiny and looking new, while in storage.

13

Dampen a cotton swab with three percent hydrogen peroxide and run it over the keys of your computer keyboard to disinfect and clean it. The cotton swab will be able to reach well between the keys.

14

To rid glass and mirrors of unsightly and persistent adhesive labels, treat with a large blob of mayonnaise. Then gently scrape off using an old credit card. The oils in the mayo dissolve the adhesive and the card won't scratch the glass.

15

Shine leather shoes with cooking oil. Dab a bit of vegetable oil on a cotton ball to remove scuffs and to protect the leather.

16

A lot of hot air is the trick to remove adhesive tags and labels, so use a blow-dryer on a high setting to do away with messy decals.

17

Look to your bathroom cabinet for cleaning the gunk from sink faucets, grout between tiles and slime from other hard to get to crevices. Scrape away using an old tooth brush; and dental floss will help with the tiny nicks where the brush just can't reach.

18

Unclog blocked sink drains by dropping half a cup of soda bicarbonate with the same amount of white vinegar down the drain. Cover with a wet cloth, wait for five minutes, uncover and flush with steaming-hot water.

19

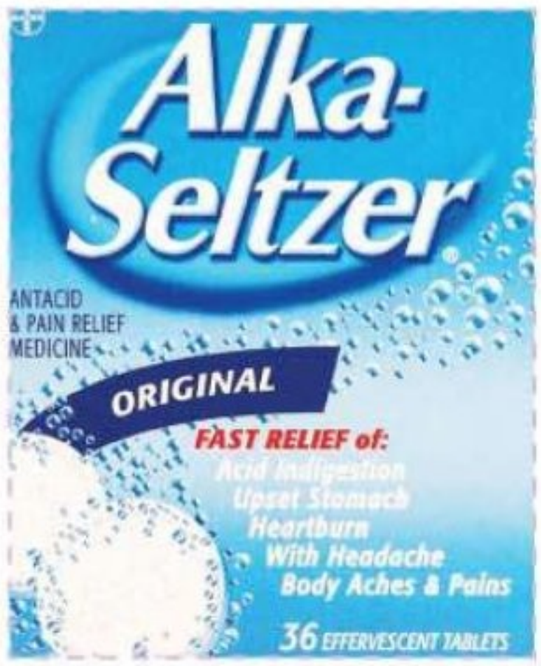
Swap a yellow duster (which leaves behind lint residues) for a coffee filter to wipe down dust and static from computer monitors and TV screens.

20

Save a few can lids or use coasters to place underneath your oil, honey and jam bottles. It'll keep sticky edges from taking over your cabinets.

21

An easy way to lift the green, scummy, flowery remains from the bottom of a vase is to fill the vase with water, add two antacid tablets, let sit for a few minutes, wipe out with a sponge and then rinse.



22

Low on toilet cleaner? Drop two Alka Seltzer tablets in the bowl and a few minutes later use a toilet brush to finish the job. Not just the bowl, keep the flush tank fresher with a few effervescent tablets dropped in from time to time. Else, try a cola - decant a can or bottle of the fizzy around your toilet bowl. Let the drink sit for an hour. Flush and enjoy the basin sparkling clean.

23

Ketchup's not merely lip-smacking yummy on just about everything it's also good to remove tarnish from copper and brassware. Blot a clean cloth with sauce and rub onto pots and pans. Within minutes they should retain their coppery colour. Rinse with warm water and pat dry.

24

Shine stainless-steel cookware and fixtures with fizzy club soda. Buff scuffs with a soda-dampened cloth, then wipe dry.

25

Give your carpet a fork lift! Use the tines of a fork to gently fluff plush carpet fibres back to their original shape, removing dents left by heavy furniture.

26

Keep your silver flatware sparkling longer by tying up a few moisture-absorbing pieces of blackboard chalk in cheesecloth and stowing them with your cutlery. Wrap them together in felt for an extended shine.

27

Get oily stains off clothes as well as washable table-ware with the help of talcum powder or cornstarch as both can soak up good quantities of oil. Pick or scrape off the excess, then rinse. Next, apply a stain remover and let sit for 15 minutes. Finish with a regular wash cycle.

28

Your favourite cuppa in a new avatar – scouring rusty garden tools! Brew a few pots of strong black tea and when cool, pour into a bucket. Soak the tools for a few hours. Wipe each one with a cloth. Protect your hands from stains by using rubber gloves.

29

Free your carpet of grubby grease stains with cornstarch. Pour the cornstarch onto spots and let sit for 15 to 30 minutes before vacuuming.

30

Refresh your microwave with tea. Boil water and steep a few green tea leaves after you've removed the pot from heat. When cool enough to handle, use the water to wash down the inside and outside of your microwave. The brew removes odours and leaves your oven smelling crisp and clean.

31

Clean ceiling fans with a pillow case. Slide an old cover over a blade, then grip the case and pull it back, keeping all the dirt contained.

32

Smelly footwear? Stuff a few balled-up sheets of newspaper into the shoes and let sit overnight to neutralise the foul offenders.

33

Clean windows and have them smelling great too by mixing two ounces water and 10 drops lavender or lemongrass oil to wipe grime off the glass. An added advantage is that these oils may repel flies as well.

34 To clean and deodorise a dishwasher, pour a few scoops of dry powdered sugar-free lemonade into the detergent compartment and run an empty cycle.

35 A new lease for a stinky refrigerator: Dab a few cotton balls with vanilla extract and place them on a plate in the fridge. The cotton absorbs the bad scent and you are left with a pleasant aroma.

36 To prevent rust rings in the bathroom from shaving-cream and deo cans, coat the bottom rim with clear nail polish.

37 Show off grandma's inherited silverware at your next dinner party with the help of the humble baking soda. Wash all the tarnished products and place them on an aluminum foil at the bottom of a deep pot. Add baking-soda solution (1/4 cup soda, a few teaspoons salt, one quart boiling water) and submerge for two to three minutes. Wipe away tarnish. Repeat if necessary. Do not use this method on antique silver knives, as the blade will separate from the handle. Another alternative is to use non-abrasive toothpaste.

38 To clean up nonstick cookware without scrubbing the coating off, stick the pan in the freezer for a minimum of half an hour; when cooled down, the grime should come off easily.

39 Rub tub stains away with a paste of equal parts baking soda, cream of tartar and a little lemon juice. Leave on for 30 minutes and rinse spotlessly clean.

40 Deodorise dry carpets by sprinkling liberally with baking soda. Wait at least 15 minutes and vacuum. Repeat if necessary.

41 Cheers to your clothes! Spritz musty-smelling garments with a small amount of vodka (spot-test first). Straight vodka kills bacteria, but doesn't leave a scent. Hang clothes to dry in a well-ventilated area.

42 For fresh linen this monsoon, place an open box of baking soda alongside your sheets and towels to ward off mustiness.

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43

Remove old stuck-on chewing gum by rubbing with a bag filled with ice cubes until the glop hardens; then shatter it with a blunt object and vacuum it up.

44

Have your gold jewellery shining again by adding a few drops of mild dish-washing liquid to a bowl filled with two cups of warm water. Drop your ornaments into the solution and let them soak for about 15 minutes. Rinse and dry.

45

Baby oil not just softens skin, it also doubles up as chrome polish. Dab some on to a cotton cloth and use it to shine everything from faucets to hubcaps.

46

Wipe down your furniture with a mix of one teaspoon lemon juice in a pint of mineral or vegetable oil for that just-bought look.

47

Rid dishwasher-safe plastic containers of tomato and other acidic food stains by rubbing lemon juice onto the spots, dry out in the sun and wash as usual.

48

Exonerate your garbage disposal of odours by simply flushing with hot water, then drop orange peels down the hatch and turn it on. Lemon, lime and grapefruit rinds also do the trick.

49

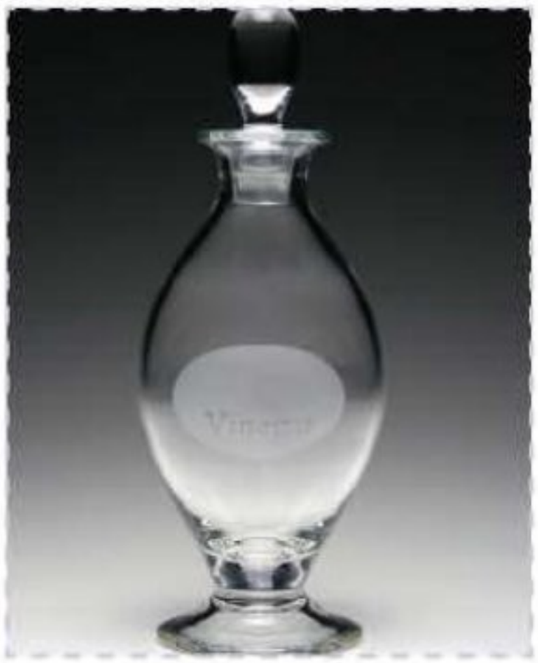
Lemon juice is an alternative natural bleach that works wonders and leaves behind a fresh smell - add one-fourth to half a cup of lemon juice to the wash cycle to brighten up those fading whites.

50

For oven spillovers, pour salt on the slop to soak it up. When the oven has cooled down, wipe clean with a damp sponge.

51

White vinegar naturally disinfects and deodorises like an all-purpose cleanser. Mix a solution of one part water to one part vinegar in a new store bought spray bottle and you have a solution that will clean most areas of your home. Safe to use on most surfaces (always test on an inconspicuous area) except on marble.



Tips - a compilation from realsimple.com; lifestylemsn.com; hintsandthings.com and thefunplace.com.

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NEXT GEN PUBLISHING

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Shelf life!

Our style file gives you an insight on the seasons's trends on racks and shelves

Vanita Arora | Casa Forma, Huelsta, Visage

"A few decades ago, bookshelves were used only to keep books. But now they are being used as design elements in their own right. Combine-use structures are quite in vogue these days; for instance, a wall unit with book shelves can also have a slot for displaying the television and be fitted with drawers for storing DVDs and knick knacks," explains Seema, Marcom Manager, Visage.

helf life!

You collect books, but often stack them in a meaningless heap on the first shelf available in your home. After all, who looks at a bookshelf, right? Wrong! "Shelves should not be underestimated. They occupy not only physical space but also visual space; thus becoming focal points," explains Faiza Seth, CEO, Casa Forma.

PLANNING

"Depending on the space available and the priorities of the home owner, a book shelf could be made under a staircase or on the most prominent wall of the living room. Adjustable shelves are an important feature to keep in mind as the requirements tend to change over the years," adds Seema.

Other essential elements to consider are:

- Making the most of the space that you have
- Whether you want a stand-alone or wall-mounted unit
- Would the bookshelf act as a space divider or be open from both sides, etc.
- Whether it is being made for an adult or a child
- What you need to store – only books, or CDs, or other artifacts as well
- Do you want it to be all covered, exposed or a combination of both
- Is there enough natural light

"If you intend to display decorative objects, make the shelves seamless and discreet so that the objects really stand out. For displaying books and CDs, opt for shelves with niches," explains Faiza.

Adding on, Interior Designer, Punam Kalra says, "Lay emphasis on the design elements of the shelf. Motifs can be classical, fusion, typical English, etc. A selection should be made keeping in mind the theme, if any, in the room."

With these easy tips from Visage, you can get the best out of your bookshelves:

- Regular dusting and cleaning is a must, with a dry or wet soft cloth.
- As direct sunlight is not good for your books or bookshelves, place the shelf away from windows
- Store books that are used less frequently on higher shelves and ensure there is a ladder handy to reach them. Keep books for children at an accessible height
- Books on a common theme should be stacked together.
- Stacking books both horizontally and vertically on the same shelf creates an interesting look and breaks the monotony
- Keep plants and flowers away from the shelf to avoid fungus and insects
- Keep heavy books and encyclopedia sets on lower shelves to maintain a balance
- Leave some open space within shelves for a clean look. Avoid clutter and stack loose papers, magazines and CDs in drawers or on magazine racks

OPTIONS

According to Capt. Mukesh Kumar, CMD, Huelsta Furniture – German Made India, versatile designs go a long way in making your bookshelves unique.

"The designs can always be customised. Unique technical refinements — flush front doors, sliding doors — vertical as well as horizontal, can add to the look. For finishes, there is an array to choose from, like veneer, lacquered, natural oak, cherry wood gold, high-gloss white and black and oak anthracite," he says.

"Light and reflective materials such as glass and polished lacquer surfaces can bring a touch of lightness to shelves. On the other end of the spectrum, dark coloured and sturdy shelves can enhance the design, especially when it's a rich atmosphere like that of a gentleman's club is what you may want to achieve," explains Faiza.

"Basic materials are wood, glass, stainless steel and leather. For a classical look and feel in wooden finish, you can use real teak wood; for a contemporary feel, opt for polished veneer, matt lacquered veneer and laminates. Clear glass, frosted glass, coloured glass and a combination of any wooden finish with glass can be used for a fresh look and feel. Stainless steel and other metals can be used in combination with wood and glass as well," highlights Seema.

INPUTS BY:
Faiza Seth, CEO, Casa Forma
Seema Sharma, Marcom Manager, Visage
Capt. Mukesh Kumar, CMD, Huelsta Furniture – German Made India
Interior Designer, Punam Kalra

What's in the

Hopefully, a mesmerising fragrance that'll relax and rejuvenate you! Here, all you wanted to know about making your home aromatic

Chenelle Rodrigues Mahesh Reddy

Air?

EMOTE ICONS
Fragrances can alter moods and influence our emotional well being.

- Lavender relaxes and rejuvenates
- Lemongrass energizes
- Citrus refreshes
- Sandalwood calms and soothes
- Apple Cinnamon increases concentration

Anyone who has walked into a damp, smoky, musty or otherwise foul-smelling room will know how wonderful it feels to saunter into interiors that give off an enviable aroma. No, you don't have to spritz Chanel No 5 or Givenchy. It's a lot simpler, more efficacious and cost-effective to invest in home fragrances. We help you make the right choice that'll make your friends sniff in envy!
Called 'delivery treatments', there are various products that can make your home fragrant and uplift your mood.

Omved

Eco Corner

INCENSE STICKS

In India, incense sticks are the norm. They are placed on stands which usually have a platter at the base to hold the ashes. Some stands are enclosed; the stick is suspended from the lid into its hollow space inside; the fragrance escapes from many crevices and holes. Apart from the traditional sandalwood and mogra fragrances, newer scents like French perfumes are also available.

use sandalwood products while meditating as it is known to sooth the senses and calm the mind

Omved

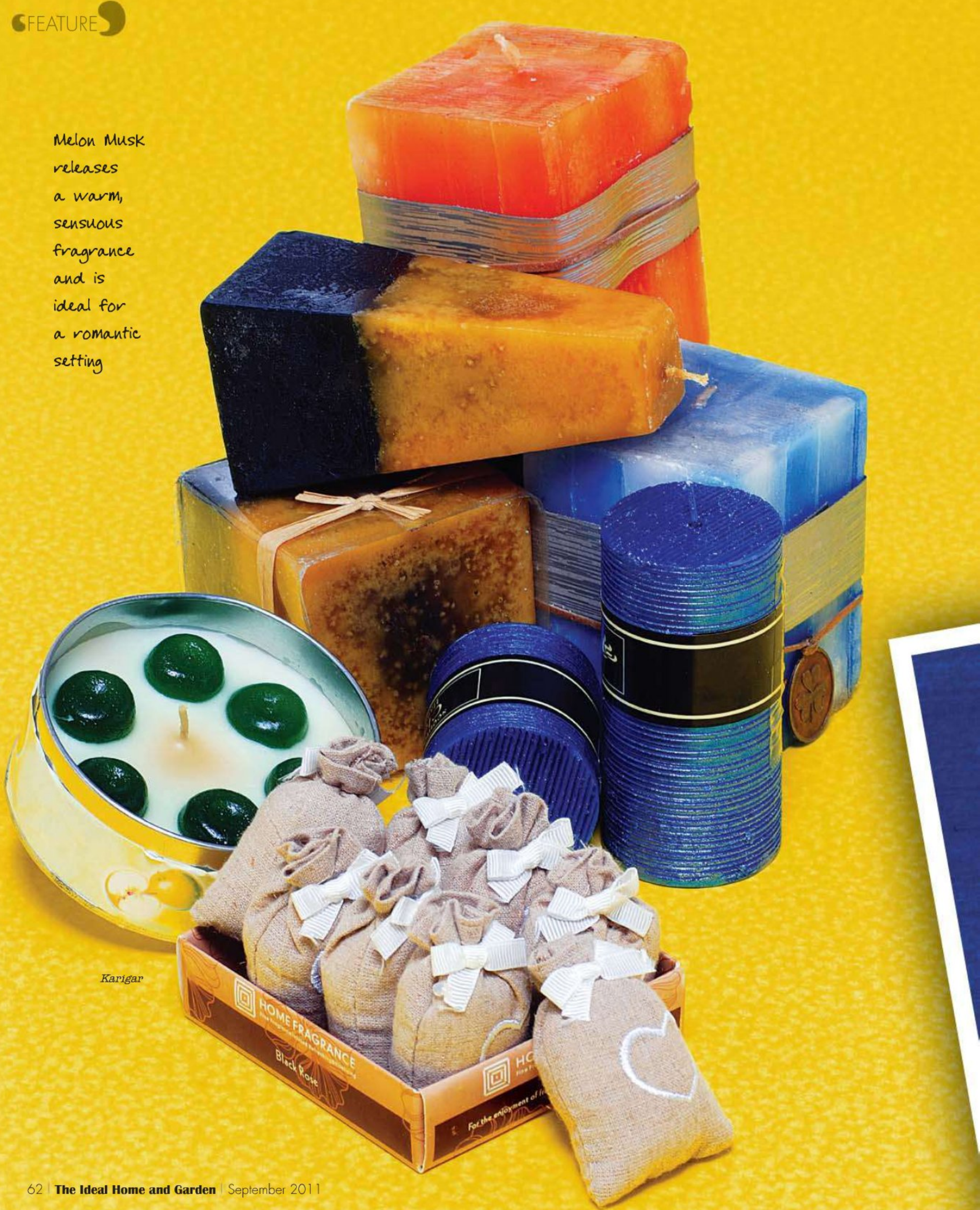
use fresh flowers to bring in natural fragrances

FRAGRANCE VAPOURISERS

Place a container made of any material — metal, ceramic, glass, stone, etc — fill it with water; add drops of an essential oil of your choice and place it over a burning tea-light candle. The boiling water will vapourise and emit the desired fragrance.

A fragrance vapouriser will go on for as long as it's kept lit and until the solution lasts. Decorative stands of various materials are available to place the tea-light candle and container.

Melon Musk releases a warm, sensuous fragrance and is ideal for a romantic setting



Karigar

FRAGRANCE SACHETS

These are small fillings of aromatic materials like herbs, spices, flower petals, powders, etc. into fabric pouches and bundles, paper covers and boxes, etc. The fillings act as fragrance retainers and gently release the aroma in the air.

Throw a couple of sachets in your suitcases, bags, cupboards, etc. to get that whiff of freshness. They aid in keeping musty odours at bay. Generally small in size, they are available in different size variants and are ideal for small spaces.

Lavender scent is a stress buster as it rejuvenates a tired mind and body and calms frazzled nerves. Place lavender-based products at your bed side to wake up refreshed!

Omved

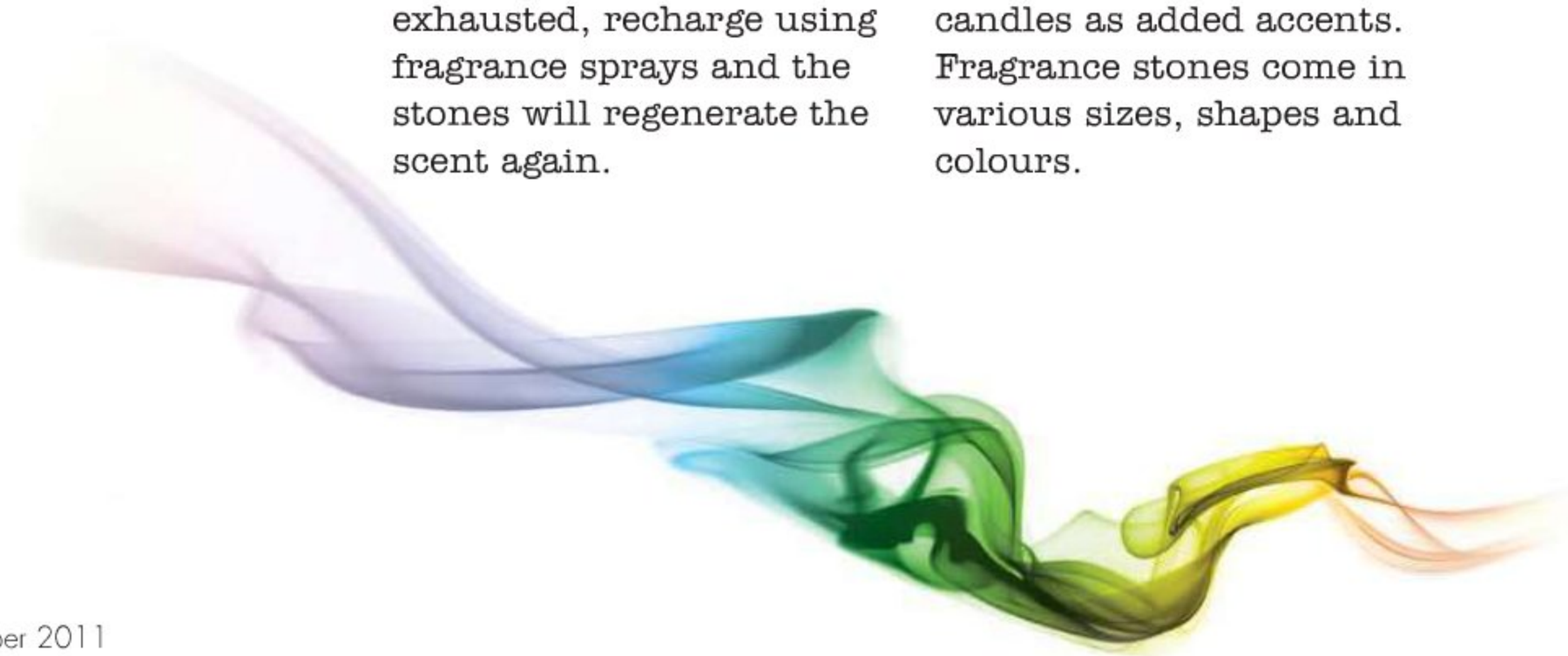
Iris

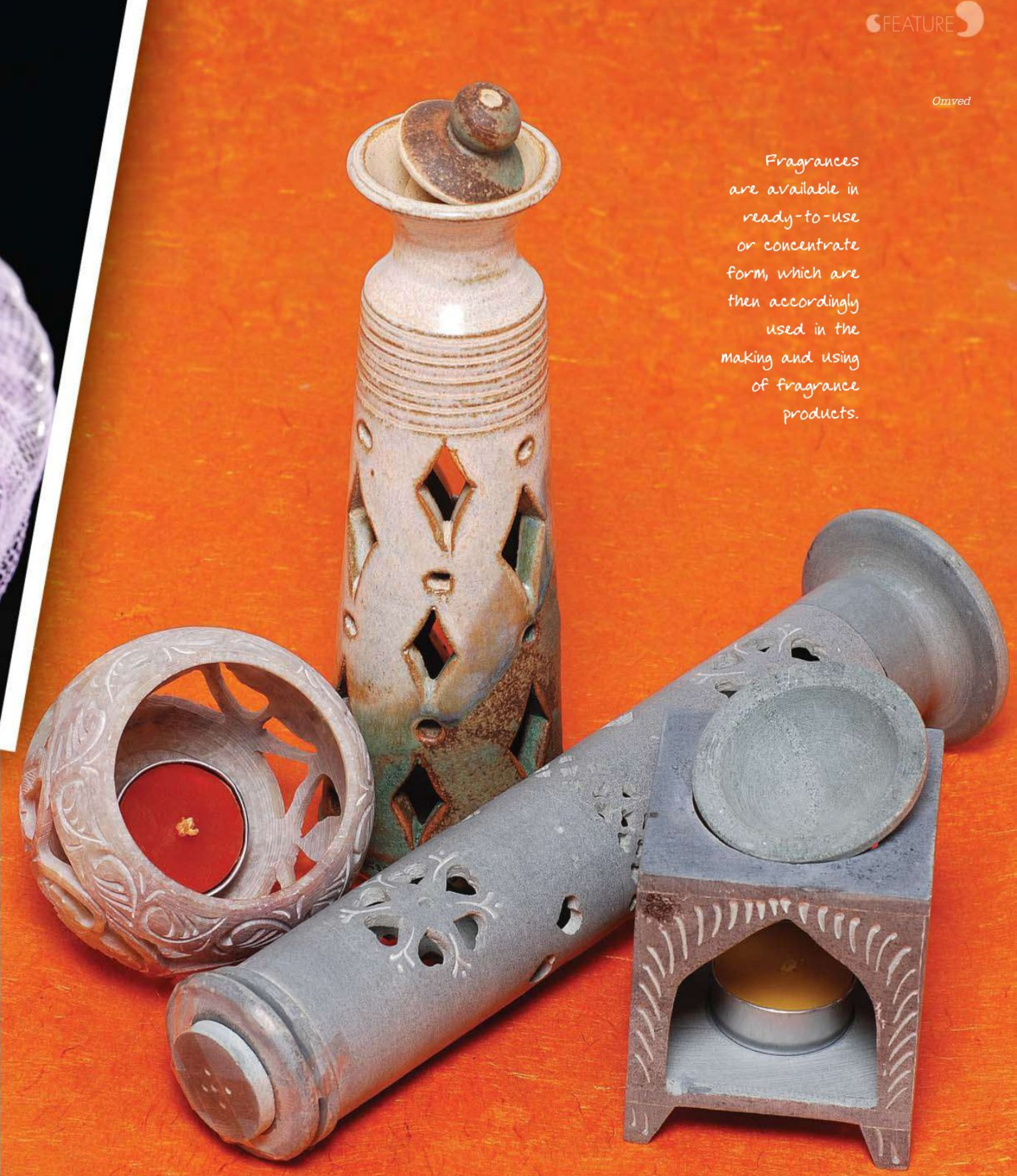
FRAGRANCE STONES

The porous nature of these stones enables them to secure the fragrance while letting it waft in the air as well. Once the fragrance is exhausted, recharge using fragrance sprays and the stones will regenerate the scent again.

Place the stone in an open decorative container and place wherever you desire. You can even add them to your potpourri or place them along with candles as added accents. Fragrance stones come in various sizes, shapes and colours.

Home fragrance products need not always be used to bring in the fragrance; they could be used to kill and keep away odours as well

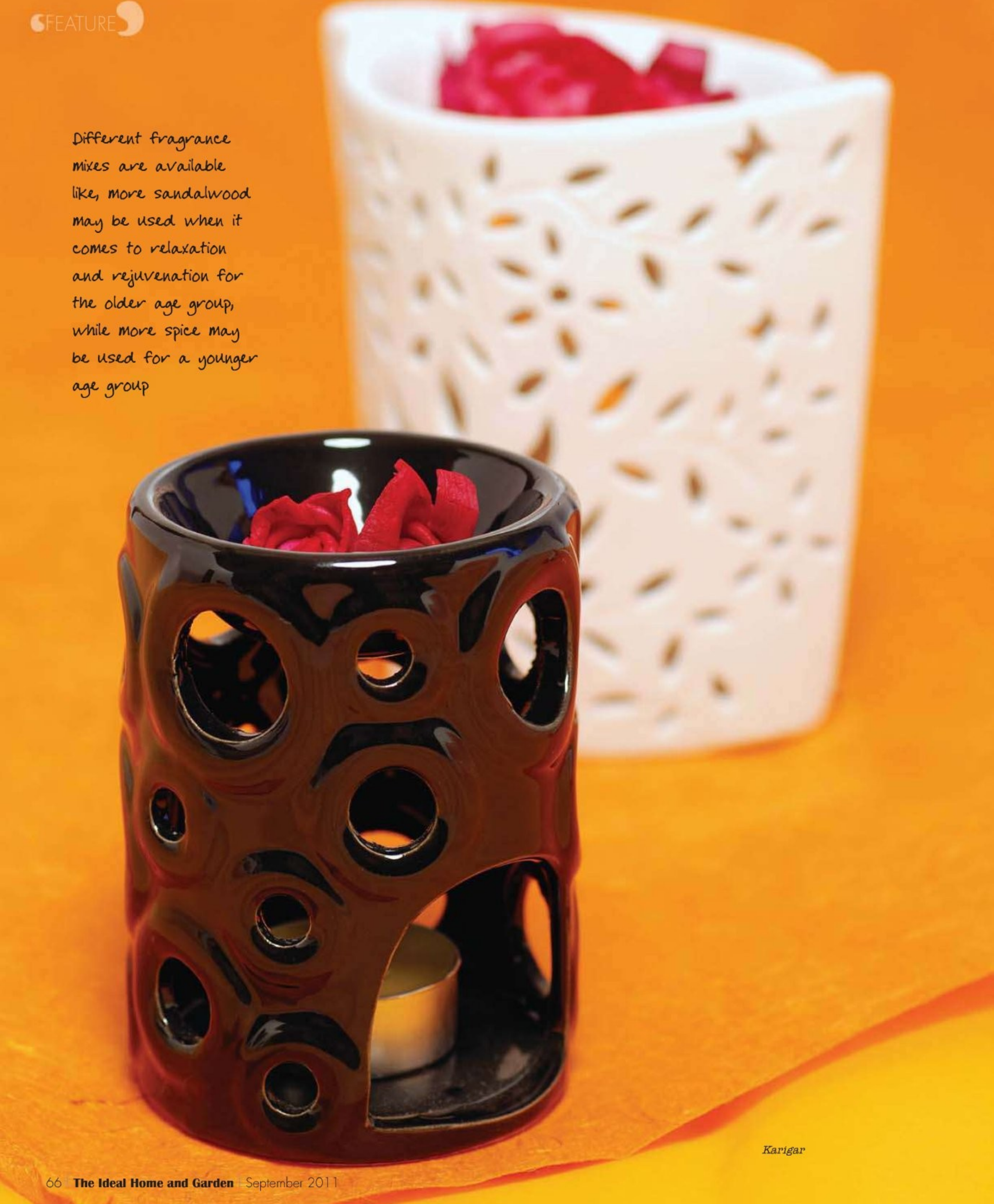




Omved

Fragrances are available in ready-to-use or concentrate form, which are then accordingly used in the making and using of fragrance products.

Different fragrance mixes are available like, more sandalwood may be used when it comes to relaxation and rejuvenation for the older age group, while more spice may be used for a younger age group



Karigar

Omved, Karigar

Tea-light aroma candles, Eco Corner; tribal art candle holder, Omved

AROMA CANDLES

Aroma candles could be made of wax or gel. Even among these there are those that burn and those that retain their size and only diffuse. They are available in sizes ranging from the size of your thumb to few feet in length and breadth! Big candles make for good corner pieces. They can also be decorated using fabrics and materials like beads, sequins, etc, and can be placed in glasses and other holders and containers, displayed with decorative elements.

AIR FRESHENERS

Air fresheners come in spray cans and are sprayed around the area you want to perfume. These fragrances are short lived and one has to spray every few hours to keep the scent going. They are ideal for short term use. Air fresheners are available in a variety of fragrances though floral fragrances dominate the market. Exotic flowers like orchids and carnations are now being tapped for their fragrances. Other aromas like citrus, spice, etc. are also available.

Store : Om Ved

POTPOURRI

REED DIFFUSERS

Omved

POTPOURRI

Dried plant materials like leaves, flowers, herbs, etc. are put together in a bowl, jar or a pouch made of sheer fabric and kept in living spaces to emit fragrances. The plant materials have the ability to hold the fragrances and then gently deliver them to the surroundings. Potpourri can be recharged using fragrance sprays, refresher oils, etc. This amalgamation of dried plant matter often comes in varied colours and decorative bowls and pouches and, of course, acts as a decorative element to your home settings.

INPUTS BY
GEETANJALI RANADE,
Perfumery Manager, Goldfield Fragrances Pvt. Ltd.

KIRAN RANGA,
Chief Fragrance Creator (CFC), Founder and Managing Director, Ripple Fragrances Pvt. Ltd.

Home fragrance products are available in a wide variety of sizes, shapes, materials, colours, etc. Pick ones that synchronises with your home décor

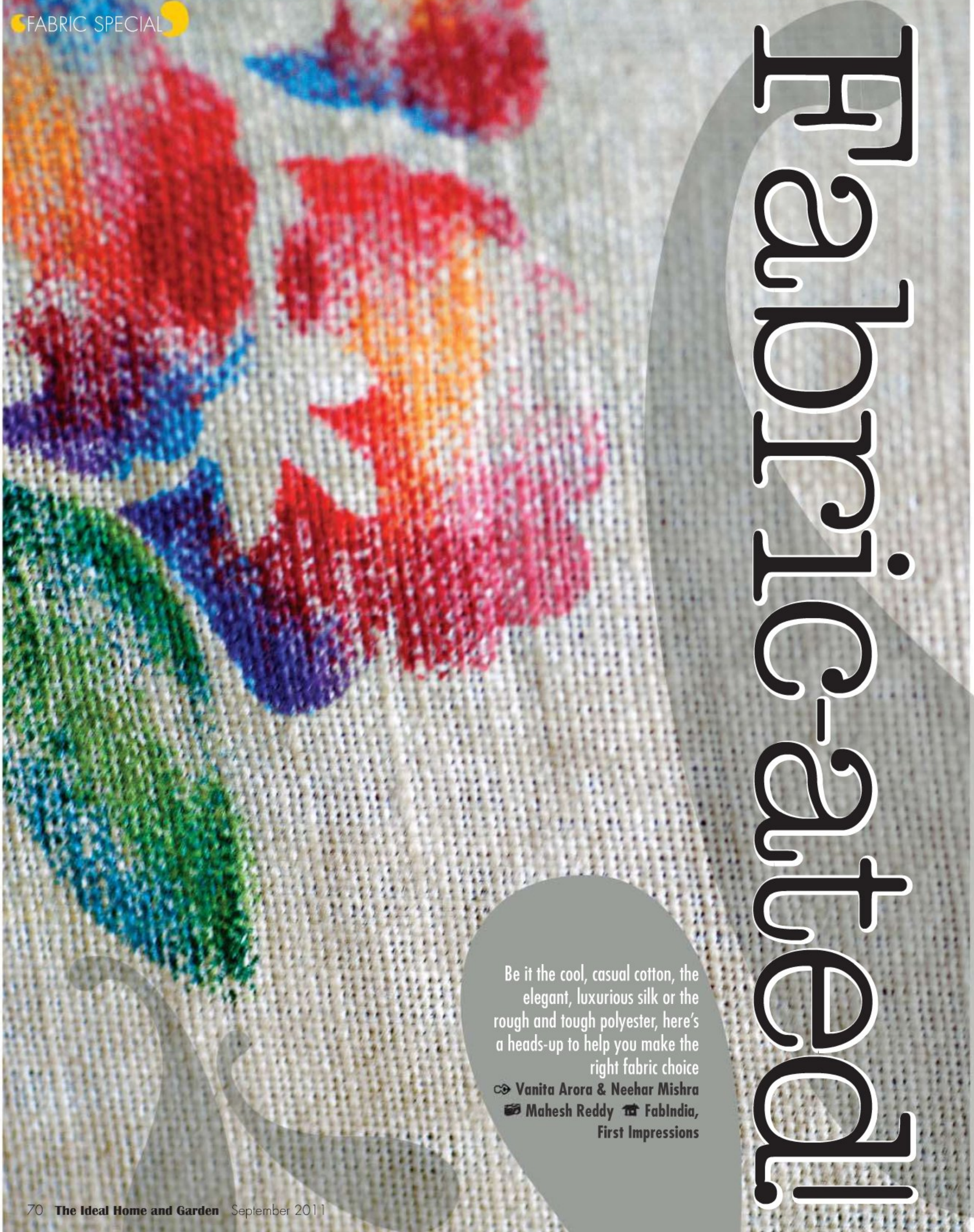
Iris

REED DIFFUSERS

Typically, a reed diffuser consists of a container (metal, ceramic, glass, stone, etc.) filled with a fragrance solution, with reed sticks inserted into it. By way of capillary action, the aroma diffuses into the living space.

A reed diffuser is easy to assemble and is almost maintenance free as it doesn't leave any ash or soot around. A solution of about 60-100 ml lasts for almost 30 - 45 days and provides 24-hours aromatic experience.

For details see Store Map



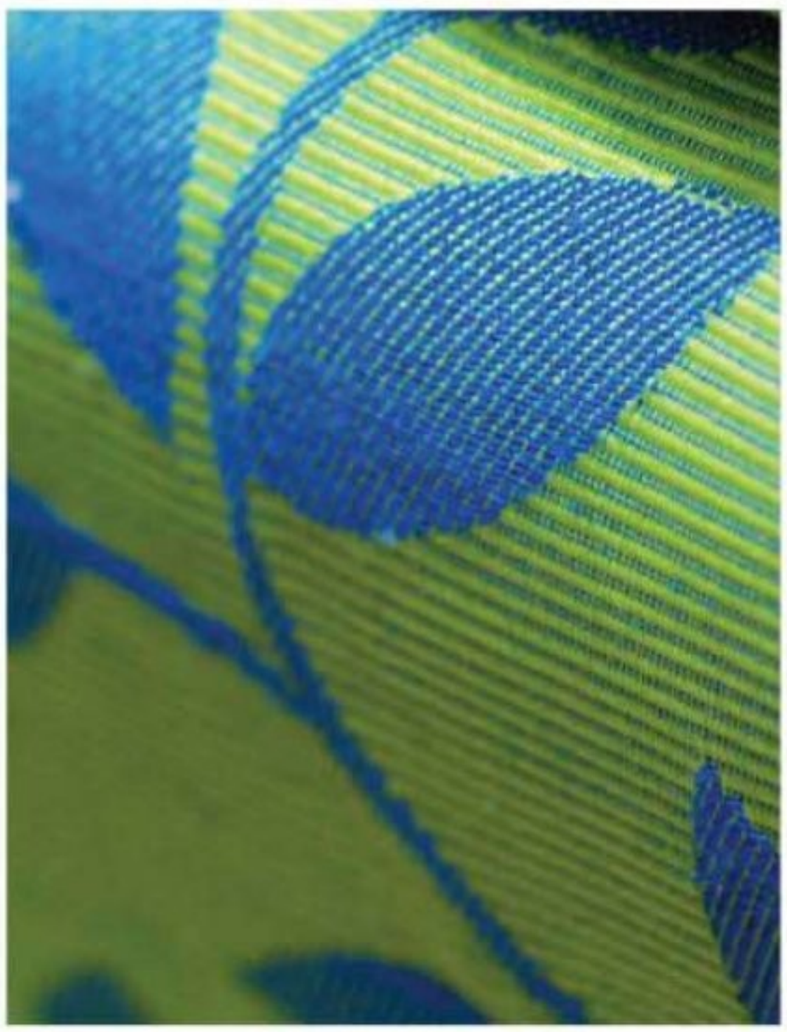
The Ideal Fabric

Be it the cool, casual cotton, the elegant, luxurious silk or the rough and tough polyester, here's a heads-up to help you make the right fabric choice

Vanita Arora & Neehar Mishra
Mahesh Reddy FabIndia, First Impressions

"Before selecting the right size, shape, colour, pattern, texture and quality of upholstery, it is important to find out the purpose of décor. Natural fabrics like cotton, leather, silk, linen and wool give a unique look to the room, whereas a solid colour fabric makes the room appear more splendid. Blends can give you the strength of the synthetics combined with the desirable qualities of the naturals. And while picking up one, make sure you are selecting the right fabric for creating the right mood," says Simran Dhingra, Interior Designer and Promoter of World Bazaar.

It's not just about draping your furniture or keeping that nosy neighbour from peeping through your window. Fabric does for your decor what your attire does for you. The right choice of fabric can add character and personality to your interiors. It can make your home warm, cosy, cool, casual, earthy or classy. However, each fabric comes with its own set of characteristics which need to be taken into consideration while planning out your interiors.



"Your fabric choice should gauge the style and character of the piece it is covering. It is better to go with materials that are durable and at the same time easy to maintain and clean. A traditional fabric would look better on a traditional style of frame. Some textiles appear casual, while others might look more formal. Select a fabric to echo your own way or the theme that you have established throughout your home. Also consider the pattern. It should befit both the size of the furniture it is covering as well as that of the room," explains Sameer Hora of IDUS, a Delhi-based home interiors store.

KEEP IN MIND

• Neutrals, pastels or brights, colours define the basic character of the room. Darker colours tend to absorb light, whereas pale colours enhance the sense of space

• Large and bold patterns can go well in a large room, whereas small patterns work well for smaller spaces. The scale of pattern and combination of patterns selected should also be considered

• Fabrics are used extensively in some spaces and less in others. It's better to use tough, durable, tight and woven fabric in busy and heavy traffic areas

• Choose a fabric based on who will be using your sofa. If your pets will also be sharing your sofa with you, consider a microfibre fabric or leather as they can withstand heavy use

• The way a space feels is equally essential, so always touch and see the fabric. The higher the thread count, the more tightly woven the fabric and the better it will wear, perform and last. Thread count refers to the number of threads per square inch of fabric. Fabric covers should be pulled tightly, without snags or unwanted tucks or dimples on them. At present, floral and paisley are popular patterns used in upholstery materials

COTTON

One of the most common natural fabrics to be used in home furnishing, cotton lends the interiors a cool, cosy and simple look. Because of its soft texture, light weight and breathability (the ability of fabric to absorb moisture and release it on its surface), cotton scores high on comfort. It is extremely versatile as it dyes easily and has good colour retention ability. However, where it fails to stand on its feet is in the durability department. Cotton tends to shrink after the first wash. Also, though resistant to piling and static electricity, excessive washing causes cotton to fade, wrinkle, lose fall and shape and become threadbare. Heavier-weight cottons such as canvas and denim wear well. But if your cotton fabric is not of excellent quality and properly fitted on the furniture piece, then it may have poor resistance to abrasion, stretching and soiling unless treated well.

WHERE TO USE

- In the bedroom as bedsheets, spreads, duvets and pillow covers, as it is light, soft and absorbant
- As drapes and curtains as it allows ventilation
- In the bathroom as towels, floor mats, etc, as cotton readily absorbs water

WHERE NOT TO USE

- In outdoor furniture since prolonged exposure to sunlight causes cotton to weaken and lose colour.
- As a table cover or anywhere else where it might be prone to staining

VELVET

Velvet is a blend of various fabrics like cotton, silk, nylon, wool, etc. and its qualities depend upon the proportions of these fabrics and how finely it has been woven. Velvet has a soft, furry texture and a shiny appearance. It is thick, warm, durable and resistant to water. It drapes well and does not crush easily.

WHERE TO USE

- For curtains, cushions, drapes and upholstery, as it is durable and easy to maintain

WHERE NOT TO USE

- Too much velvet can look gaudy because of its shimmery appearance. Ensure you use it in moderation, especially in areas like the living room
- As bed spreads or duvets as it is heavy and low on breathability

CHENILLE

Again a blend of different yarns, chenille is a soft, furry, shimmery fabric, quite like velvet, but different in texture. It is warm, thick and durable, but may wear down if washed too much. So dry-clean instead of hand-washing.

WHERE TO USE

- As quilts and bed spreads, as it is warm and fluffy
- As draperies to add textural accent to your décor

WHERE NOT TO USE

- On heavily used furniture as chenille may highlight wear and tear
- In areas exposed to prolonged sunlight as sunlight causes chenille to fade

LEATHER

Leather is one of the toughest materials available in many colours and finishes and develops more character and softness with age. Though expensive, it is a luxurious upholstery choice. But it does lack the formality of a damask or brocade.

WHERE TO USE

- For seating furniture and cushions for a classy look

WHERE NOT TO USE

- In small spaces as it may make the space look bulky and overstuffed

LINEN

Made from vegetable fibre, this natural, light fabric has a coarse, nubby texture and is more durable than cotton. Linen comes mostly in natural colours as it doesn't dye too well, but can give your décor a warm, earthy look. It can endure several washes without becoming threadbare and, due to its rough surface, it is fairly abrasion resistant.

WHERE TO USE

- In living rooms which have a subtle, earthy décor as curtains, drapes, slip covers
- Outdoor décor because of its strength and resistance to abrasion

WHERE NOT TO USE

- For bedsheets, pillow covers and duvets as it has a rough texture

SILK

This crisp, classy, lustrous fabric infuses your décor with grace, warmth and luxury. Silk is soft and highly breathable, making it appropriate for all climates. It absorbs colour well, especially rich, deep colours. You can clean your silk upholstery regularly and remove spills or stains, if any, soon after they occur. However, it needs to be washed with special care as excessive washing makes the silk fibres brittle, causing the fabric to tear easily. It is highly recommended that items made of silk be dry-cleaned.

WHERE TO USE

- Silk spells luxury! It looks great in any setting with a classic décor and greatly complements rustic, antique furniture and accessories

WHERE NOT TO USE

- Avoid using silk where you think it will be subjected to too much wear and tear or where it may be prone to staining

POLYESTER

Artificially created from petroleum by-products, this synthetic fabric finds usage in almost every element of home décor because of its strength and versatility. It is easily washable and highly resistant to stretching, shrinking, chemicals, wrinkles, abrasions and mildew. It can be dyed into any colour and has good retention capacity. Polyester has a shimmery appearance and mostly comes in two varieties – bright and semi-dull.

WHERE TO USE

- Polyester's strength and the ability to withstand chemical treatment makes it suitable for use almost anywhere and everywhere
- Flame retardant polyester can be used as kitchen fabric
- For table covers and mats as it is easily washable
- Polyester which has been treated to become water repellent can be used in the bathroom
- Outdoor décor, since it is tough and resistant to moisture, sunlight and mildew

WHERE NOT TO USE

- In the living room, for purely aesthetic reasons. The synthetic, shimmery texture of polyester can make your interiors look artificial if used extensively

WOOL

Wool is a fabric that provides long wear. Sturdy and durable, wool and wool blends offer good resistance to pilling, fading, wrinkling, and soiling. Generally, it is blended with a synthetic fibre to make it easier to clean.

WHERE TO USE

- Wool makes fabulous hard-wearing wall-to-wall carpeting
- Bedroom fabrics during winters

WHERE NOT TO USE

- Avoid using too much wool in your interiors as it tends to be scratchy and warm and some people may be allergic to it
- In a home with pets since hair tends to stick on wool and is difficult to remove

VINYL

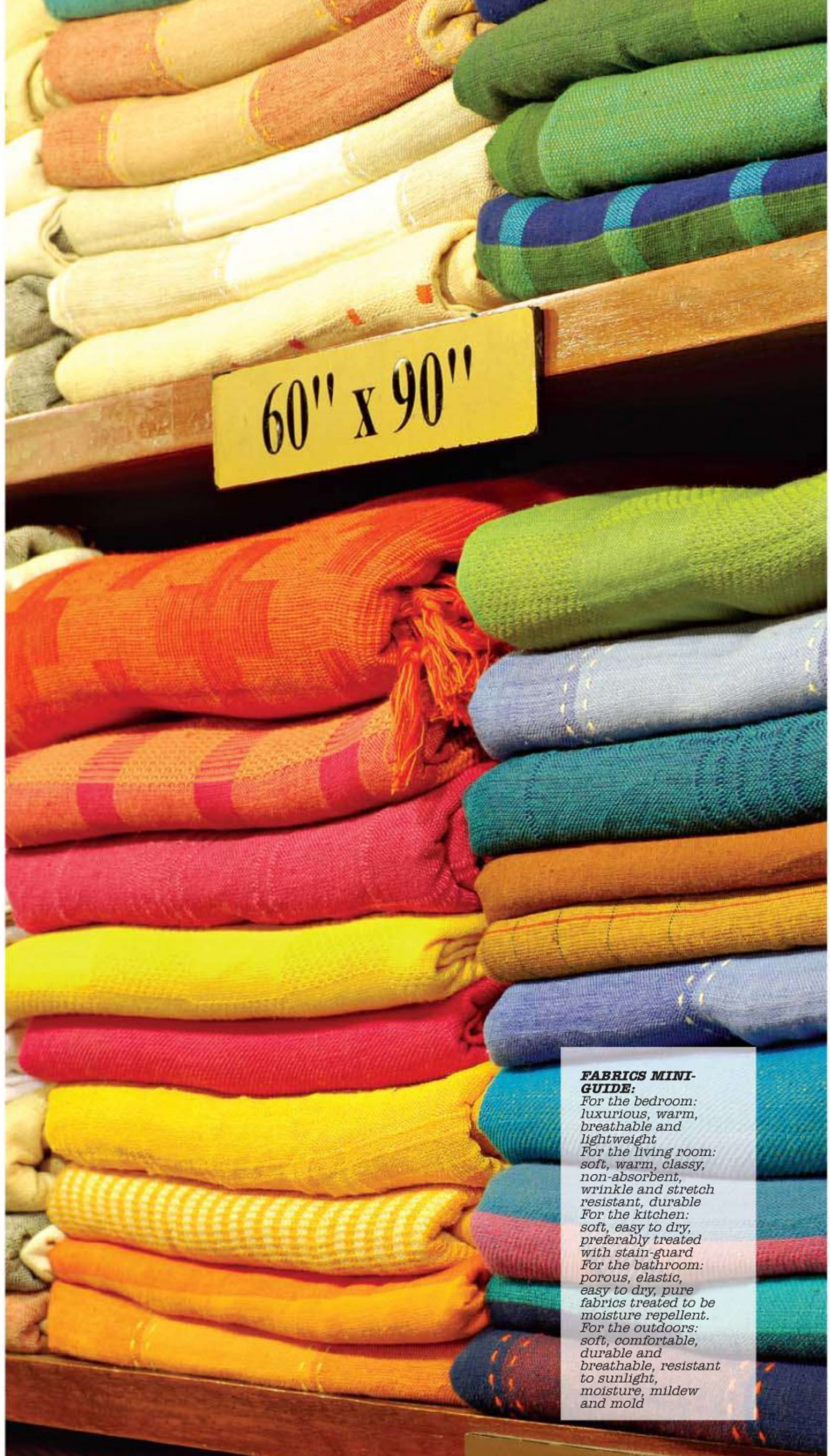
Less expensive than leather, vinyl is tough and easy to wipe off, but it will feel cold in cool rooms and stick to your skin in warm rooms. Polyurethane faux leathers are supposed to have a better feel than polyvinyl chloride faux leathers. The reason this type of fabric is so popular for upholstery is that it is comfortable as well as durable and it also blends well with any kind of décor.

WHERE TO USE

- Busy rooms and children's furniture

WHERE NOT TO USE

- Furniture meant for comfort as it may not feel good against the skin



FABRICS MINI-GUIDE:

For the bedroom: luxurious, warm, breathable and lightweight
For the living room: soft, warm, classy, non-absorbent, wrinkle and stretch resistant, durable
For the kitchen: soft, easy to dry, preferably treated with stain-guard
For the bathroom: porous, elastic, easy to dry, pure fabrics treated to be moisture repellent.
For the outdoors: soft, comfortable, durable and breathable, resistant to sunlight, moisture, mildew and mold

INPUTS FROM:
Anoop Malani, First Impressions
Charu Tewari, General Manager, Atmosphere
Simran Dhingra, Interior Designer and Promoter, World Bazaar
Sameer Hora, IDUS
Rahul Jindal, Managing Director, Loom Crafts (India) Pvt. Ltd.

OUTDOOR FABRIC

Outdoor fabrics can be categorised as those that are exposed outdoors permanently and those that are temporarily placed. For lesser used ones, you can pick fabrics such as canvas, denim, cotton or heavy lines. Waterproof/water-repellent fabrics like acrylics, nylons or polyesters are perfect for constant weather exposure. "Pick the most durable and long-lasting fabrics as on each shower or storm you can't run to pick the cushions, sofa or patio seats," explains Rahul Jindal, Managing Director of Loom Crafts (India) Pvt. Ltd.

Acrylic upholstery is more appropriate for outdoor usage and is heavier than most other varieties. Sunbrella fabric is fade-proof and stain-resistant. Another fabric, LoomTex, can withstand fading, mildew, soiling and wear and tear. It requires minimal maintenance and can be easily washed with a mild detergent without being removed from the furniture.

To keep your outdoor upholstery fabric looking great for years, hose it off every month with water. This prevents any build up of dirt that might promote mildew. Good quality fabrics need a natural soap with cold to lukewarm water.

OTHER FABRICS

RAYON: It is durable but prone to wrinkling. It is soft, comfortable and highly absorbent.

ACRYLIC: It is washable and resilient while deterring shrinkage. It can lend a woolly appearance without moth problems; however, pure acrylics tend to pill.

MICROFIBRE: It is used to make non-woven, woven and knitted textiles. The shape, size and combinations of synthetic fibres are selected for specific characteristics like softness, durability, absorption, wicking abilities, water repellency, electrodynamics, and filtering capabilities.

OLEFIN: It is tough, hard wearing, colourfast and stain resistant. It also has the lightest "specific gravity" of all fabrics. It dries quickly and wicks sweat and water from the skin.

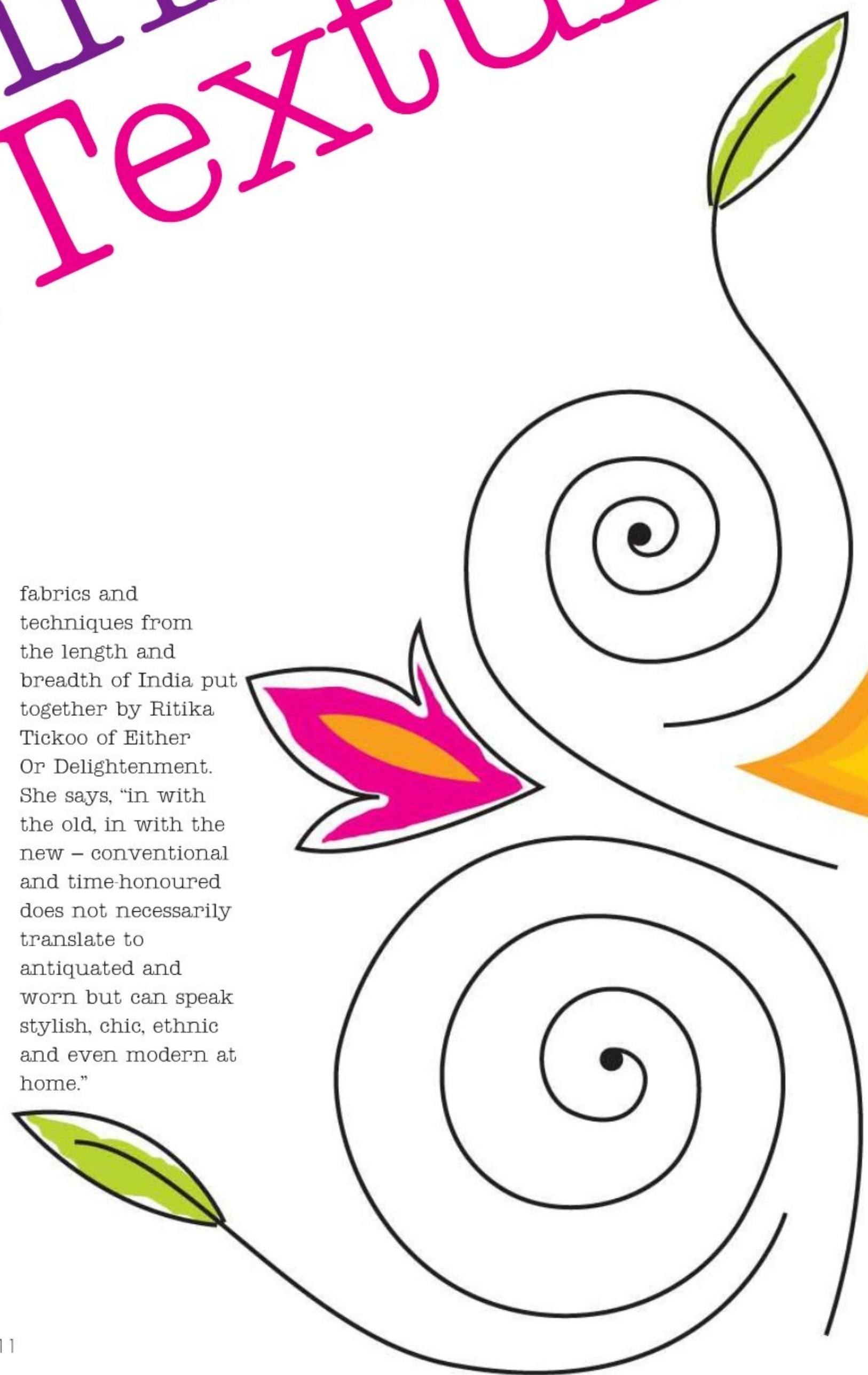
Ethnic Textures

Either Or Delightenment presents traditional techniques of weaves, wafts, embroidery, prints and dyes in textiles, handmade by artisans from across the country

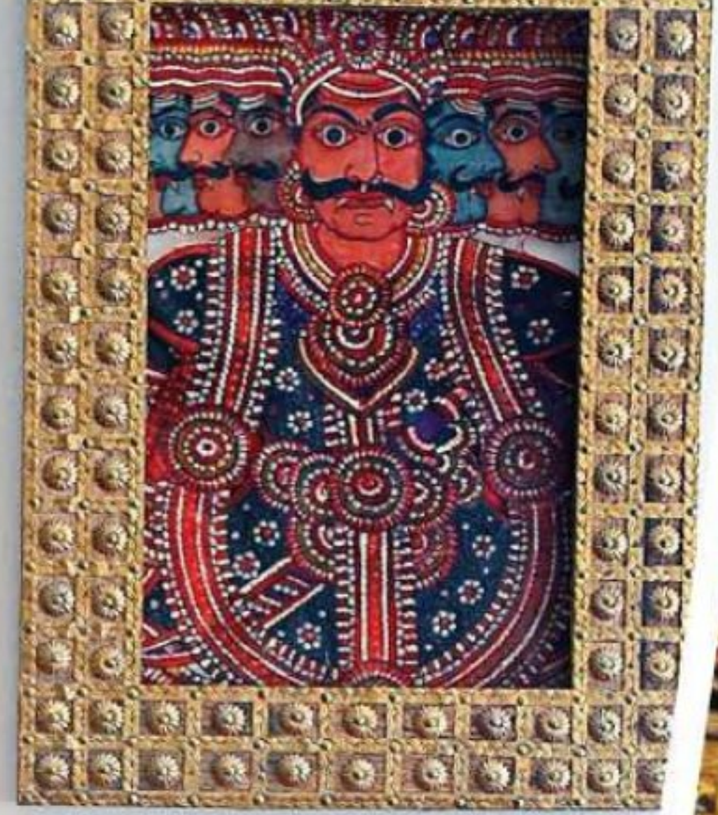
Anaheeta Patell Amit Bhandare
Either Or Delightenment

Indian hand woven fabrics have been known since time immemorial. Poets of the Mughal durbar likened our muslins to *baft hawa* (woven air), *abe rawan* (running water) and *shabnam* (morning dew). A tale runs that Emperor Aurangzeb had a fit of rage when one day, he saw his daughter, princess Zeb-un-Nissa, clad in almost nothing. On being severely rebuked, the princess explained that she had not one but seven *jamahs* (dresses) on her body; such was the fineness of the hand woven fabrics.

We bring you five distinct looks showcasing traditional handloom fabrics and techniques from the length and breadth of India put together by Ritika Tickoo of Either Or Delightenment. She says, "in with the old, in with the new – conventional and time-honoured does not necessarily translate to antiquated and worn but can speak stylish, chic, ethnic and even modern at home."



Patachitras are renowned for their bold lines and brilliant play of colours. It is a hereditary art practiced by families of painters living in the vicinity of the temples of Puri in Orissa.

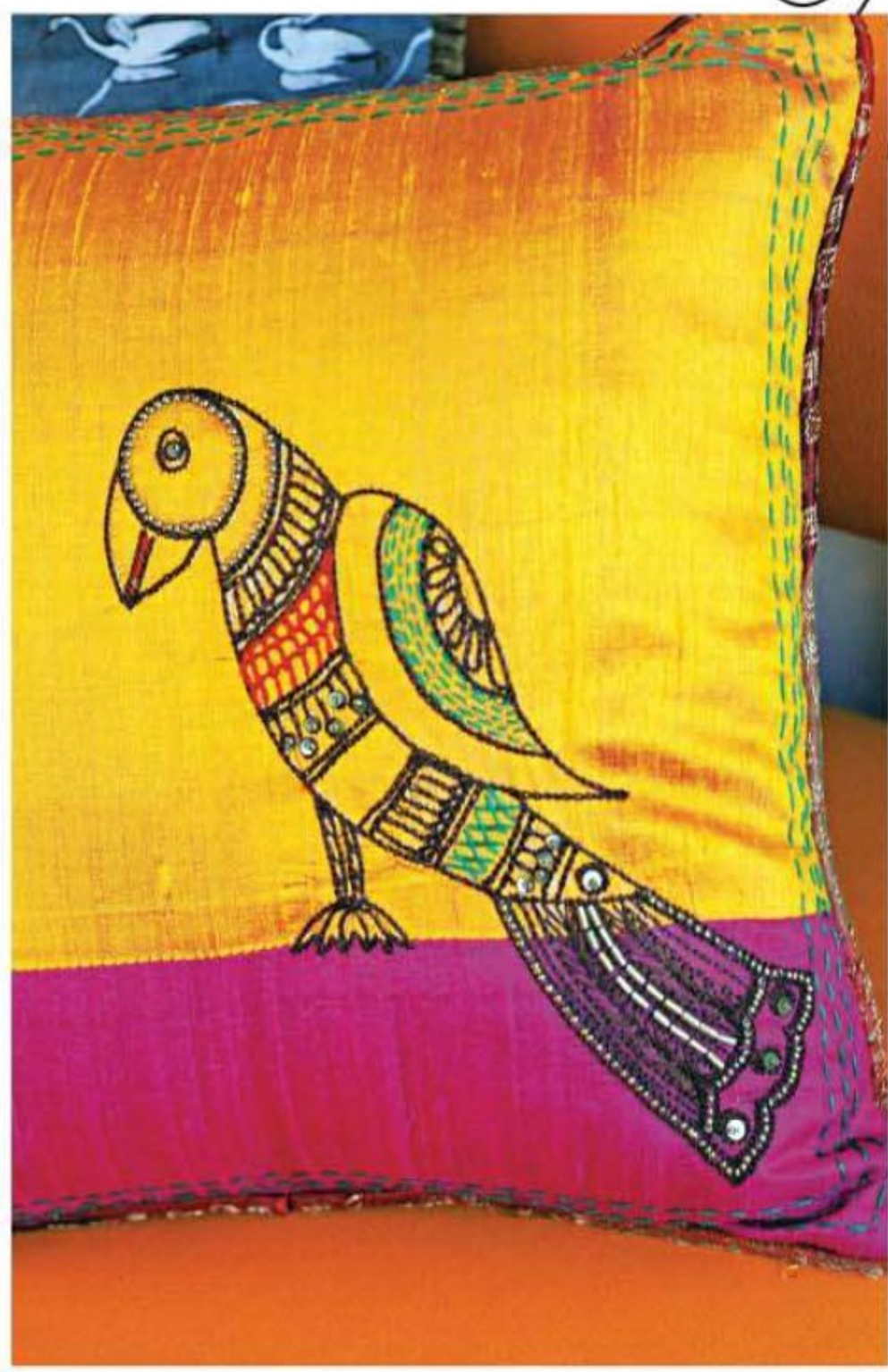


The central hues used in Patachitra are red, brick red, yellow, white and lamp black. The painter employs brushes made from the hair of a mongoose, rat or a buffalo's neck. In the past, artists also used the kiya plants for drawing thick lines.

Beautifully clashing colours are arranged in effortless harmony by craftspeople, for whom weaving, painting, needlework and embroidery is just another part of their daily chores.

TELL TALE – *a contemporary twist to an age old narrative.*

Here's a modern take on traditional ethnic ware. Digital prints convey scenes from the Ramayana on vibrant cushions. The masks are Andhra crafted made of a mix of scraps of cloth and sawdust. The coasters and the bottles are made of cloth using the Patachitra technique where a very thin layer of fabric is painted on and pasted on the object which is then lacquered on top. The bottles depict the avatars of Vishnu while the coasters narrate a pretty tale in four stages depicted by the opening of a lotus flower. And, overseeing the good over evil is a picture of Ravana embossed on leather.



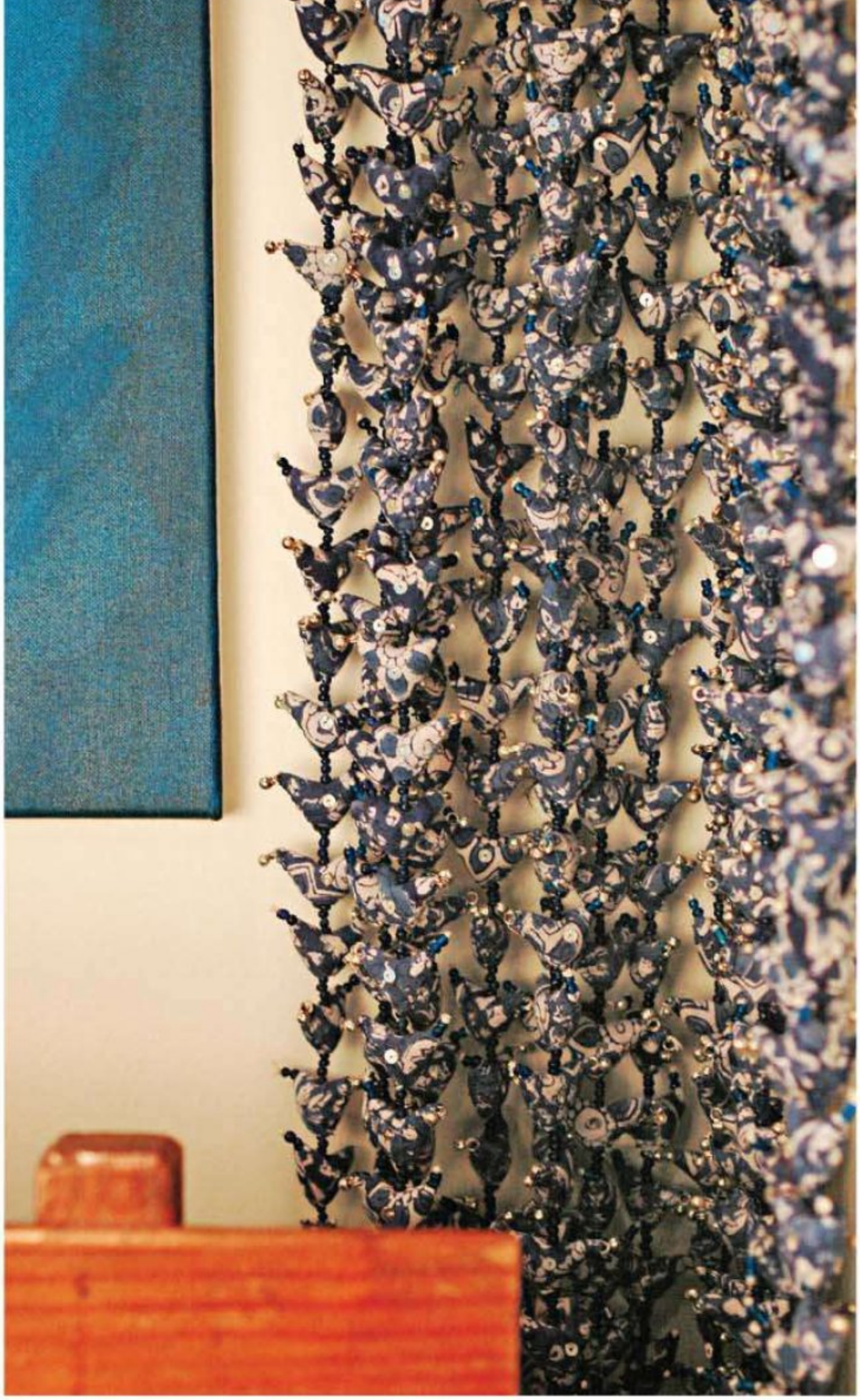
CUT AND PATCH – *Appliqué and patch work from Ajmer is showcased here, giving rise to a look that shouts English countryside!*

The patchwork or cutwork of the Rajasthani traditional style entails the cutting of fabric into different shapes and sizes and then sewing them on the base material in aesthetic arrangements. Crisp, clean and oh-so-beautiful!

IT'S IN PRINT – *featured here are Rajasthani Block Prints and Bandhanis from Gujarat.*

Rajasthan gives us the characteristic block prints of birds, animals, flora and fauna embellishing rustic fabric. The tradition of hand printing with finely engraved wooden blocks bestow attractive designs and patterns with an earthy colour palette of khaki, browns, indigo, blues and greens.
Bandhani – tie and dye from Kutch and Saurashtra is a relatively simple though laborious art form, producing vibrant canvases of materials. Traditional Bandhani motifs include Sikar, Kori, Badam, Champakali, Kharek, etc.

Traditionally, embroideries were largely meant for personal use and as dowry or gifts, but now these handiworks are bringing colour and whimsy into our homogeneous mass produced urban marketplace.



EMBROIDERED STORY TELLING

– narratives using embroidery, in three styles....

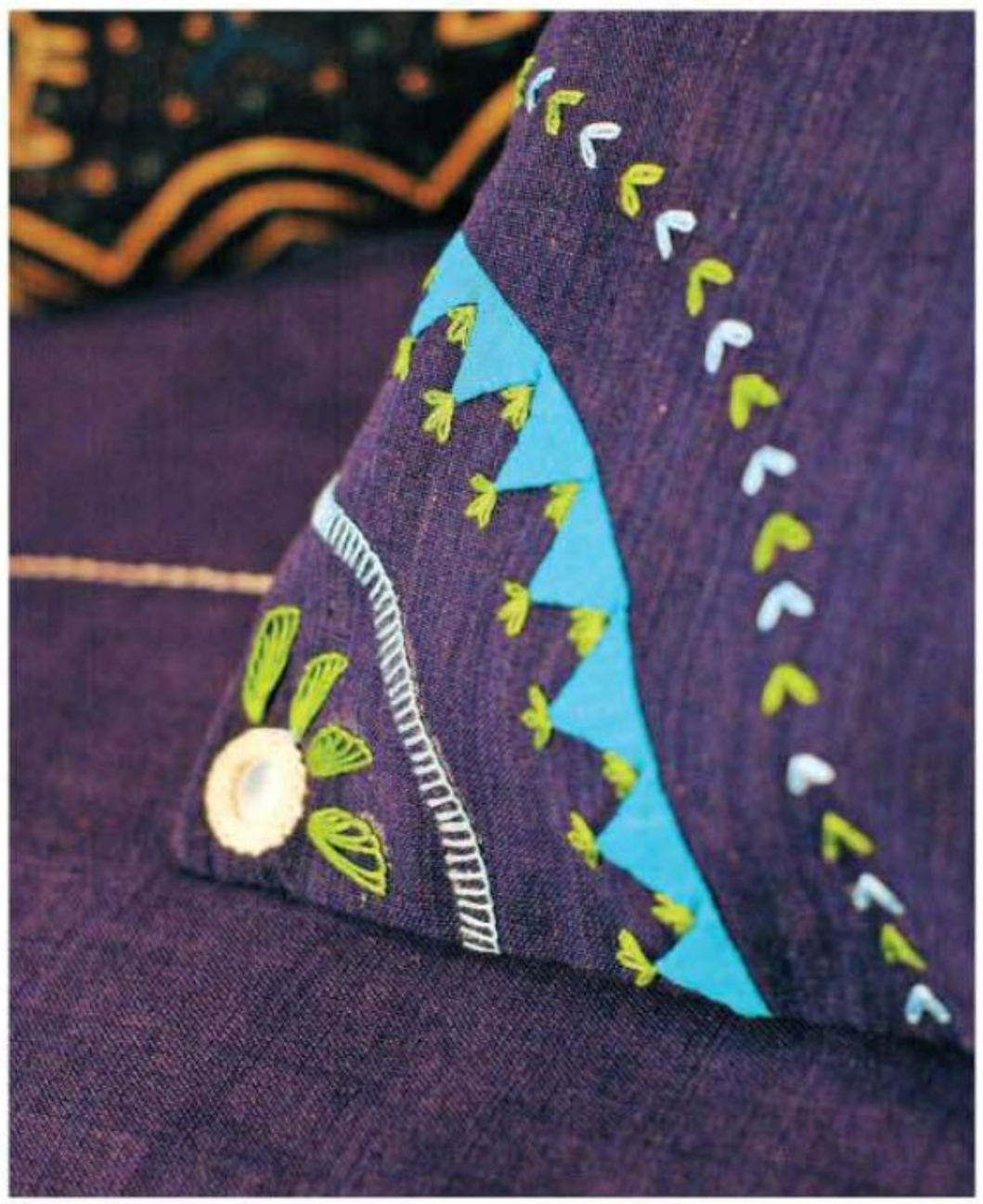
Fabric is used as a canvas to convey messages and tell tales of yore.

By the Lambani tribe of Karnataka (cushions on the floor), a story, bohemian stylized, is recounted with embroidery on handloom. A combination of the cross-stitch and the line or double running stitches is used to compose themes from religion or everyday life.

Embroidery from the Kutch region in Gujarat (from the left – the two cushions on the bench) is famous for its riot of hues. Rust, green, indigo, blue, red, pink and purple are customarily employed. Inspired mainly by nature, mirrors and beads are also put to effective use in creating truly stunning handiworks.

Sujuni, with origins in Bihar (cushion on the right and seat cover), is a unique craft passed on from mother to daughter; traditionally using old worn saris. The saris are stitched jointly with white thread and then quilted; the middle part of the quilt is then stitched together with coloured threads to create lively patterns.

Attractive danglers made of printed fabric are a typical art form from Ajmer.



INDIA WEAVES – *the focus is on Tagai, Kantha and Dhao Dora, customary of Rajasthan, Bengal and Maharashtra respectively.*

With the sari as the original muse, these traditional techniques are at home in avatars of quilts, bedcovers, throws, cushions, covers, et all. From the villages of Rajasthan is Tagai, where running stitch meets prints, giving rise to vibrant, ethnic creations which are usually double-faced - turn the same piece over and you have a brand new look!
A ditto skill in running stitch gives you the Dhao Dora workmanship from rural Maharashtra, very popular in the form of quilts.
Kantha work is a popular form of embroidery practiced by the rural women of West Bengal and parts of Bangladesh. The thread for this craft is drawn out of the borders of the fabric in use and is a simple running stitch made on the edges, giving it a slight wrinkled, wavy effect. Inspirations for motifs are from folklore, flowers, animals , birds, geometrical shapes and even themes from day to day activities.

Given the wide and exciting range of handloom, it is not surprising that the rich and beautiful yields of the weavers of India have been referred to as "exquisite poetry in colourful fabrics!"

OUR LOOKS WERE PUT TOGETHER BY
Ritika Tickoo at Either Or Delightenment
Sohrab Hall, 21, Sasoon Road,
Opposite Jahangir Hospital,
Pune 411001
Call: (020) 26057228

Window Dressing

Sheers, curtains or blinds? Our experts define the perfect look for your windows

Vanita Arora Floor & Furnishings, Monica Kamal

Whether contemporary, classic or simple and subtle, the look of your window depends upon the kind of fabric used and the style of curtains.

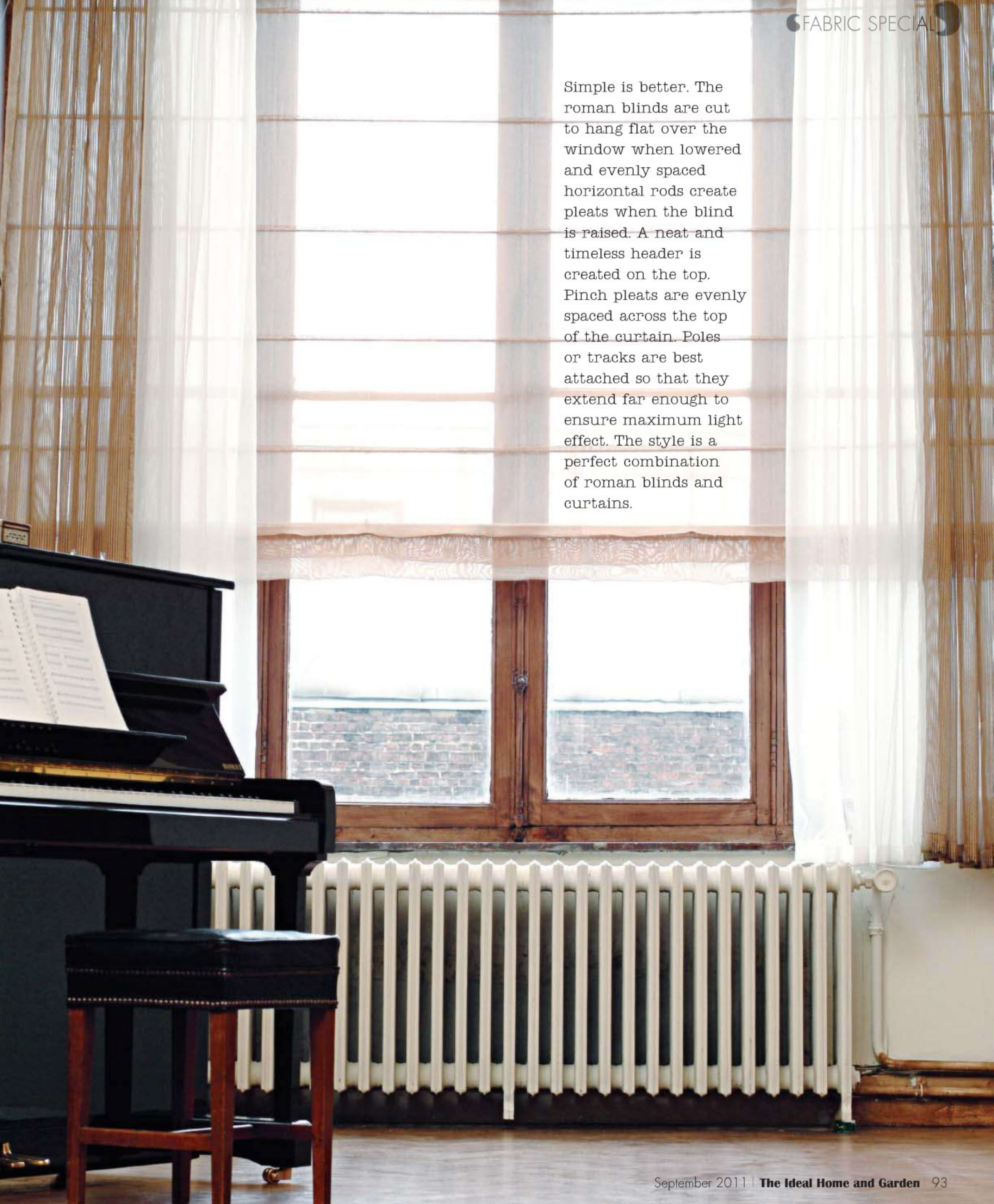
Sumptuous full length curtains layer on the floor for a contemporary effect. Edged with metal eyelets, these give a clean and modern look to any room. If you are looking for a more sophisticated look, you can use refined fabrics such as silk or velvet.

To complement the style, choose decorative curtain rods with ornamental finial at the ends.

The fabric used and the 'fall' of a curtain are crucial for the final look. While thick drapes and shutters restrict the amount of natural light entering the room, curtain panels in translucent shades limit the amount of light without blocking the inside-outside feel. These curtain panels have casings on top as well as at the bottom. Depending on the window's dimensions, you can use two to three curtain panels.

Define your look and measure your windows. You can add height to the room by mounting the rod closer to the ceiling. While deciding on the curtain fabric, pay attention to the complete length and ensure that you check it in lighting that is as close to the ambience it will be exposed to in your home.

A contemporary look that is elegant without adding any extra bulk to the room enhances the appearance by creating a subtle, soft and pleasant ambience. The fabrics used are silk, poly satin and organza. There's a curtain with a main blind at the back, smartly tied on one side to highlight the intricate embroidery. Tassels have been added to accentuate the look.



Simple is better. The roman blinds are cut to hang flat over the window when lowered and evenly spaced horizontal rods create pleats when the blind is raised. A neat and timeless header is created on the top. Pinch pleats are evenly spaced across the top of the curtain. Poles or tracks are best attached so that they extend far enough to ensure maximum light effect. The style is a perfect combination of roman blinds and curtains.

Add a classic look to your window with roman blinds. Evenly spaced horizontal rods create pleats when the blind is raised and these are cut in a way that they hang flat and crisp over the window when lowered.

Vibrant hues create striking combinations to pep the entire scheme. The curtain is used like a panel, with weights inserted at the bottom. The treatment works well for open areas like farmhouses, villas or garden-facing rooms. The beautiful printed curtain and sheer fabric complement the look.

INPUTS BY
Floors & Furnishings Interior Designer, Monica Kamal

Natural Connection

The banks of the river Godavari form the perfect setting for designer Sanjay Porwal's unique architectural expression

Vanita Arora Kalayojan

"Look no further than out of a window and you have the Godavari flowing majestically, our inspiration for stylising the home. The river provides for a beautiful natural setting with wondrous views. The same design sensibilities have been applied to planning the state-of-the-art interiors and areas around the house, virtually bringing the exteriors indoors. The style of the abode mirrors the likes and wants of its occupants and that living has been aptly integrated into the design statement," claims architect and designer Sanjay Porwal. What strikes you at first glance is the bungalow's unusual elevation and clean lined simplicity. The panels of light that curve along the roof highlight its shape at night and impart an ethereal feel to the entire composition. "Our USP is a no–nonsense approach and attention to detail while working on a project. We emphasise the need for functionality and the optimal utility of space Visuals from both outside and within a building should promote a sense of delight," underlines Sanjay.

REAL HOMES

Enter and you are surrounded by a striking landscape - a mix of exceptional illumination, water bodies, terracotta accents and marble tables - seamlessly integrating the natural and built spaces. An eye-catching mural on a sliding metal gate provides for a perfect backdrop and gives an artistic expression to the homeowner's tastes for the finer things in life.

The focal point of this scenic site has to be its poolside that encircles the bungalow, with emphasis laid on the three R's – relax, revitalize, rejuvenate! The large glass fronted doors of the living room look out on a refreshing view of the pool and the gardens beyond. While being entertained in the confines of the parlour, visitors are wowed with an impressive waterfall which has water flowing from the roof into the pool. A wooden deck connects the living area to the outdoors.

The entrance door is a work of craftsmanship with a unique pattern featuring nature's universal elements - the sun, earth and moon - in various forms. "Once inside, you witness the interplay of light, a sense of openness, multiple levels, unmistakable warmth and ultra comfort. We've tied this all together with a selection of classy and modern furniture," adds Sanjay.

The high ceiling in the living room is coloured in earthy hues of brown accentuated by whites in cushions and zebra print centre and side tables. Arty touches are seen peppered all around the space - the piano seating, stone clad walls, murals and the sound of the waterfall. There is a camaraderie that exists between the varieties of materials used in the building such as glass, steel, wood, etc.; each blending in harmony with the other that gives rise to a synchronised charisma that's all its own.

There is a subtle play of private spaces opening into the common areas without any conflict of functions. The living room glides gracefully into the dining area that boasts of a uniquely designed glass table sporting circular transparent cut–outs at the bottom. Water from the swimming pool mimicking the feel of the river just outdoors flows beneath the cut-outs. The surrounding glass wall provides an uninterrupted view of the great outdoors. Talk about al fresco dining! An elegant door opens out into an up-to-date spacious modular kitchen clad simply in terms of décor but high on functionality.

Summing up, the architect says, "While designing the home, we have created a concept of uninterrupted spaces not confined by enclosing walls. Plus we have effectively made the bungalow a part of the surroundings so that they seamlessly blend into each other."

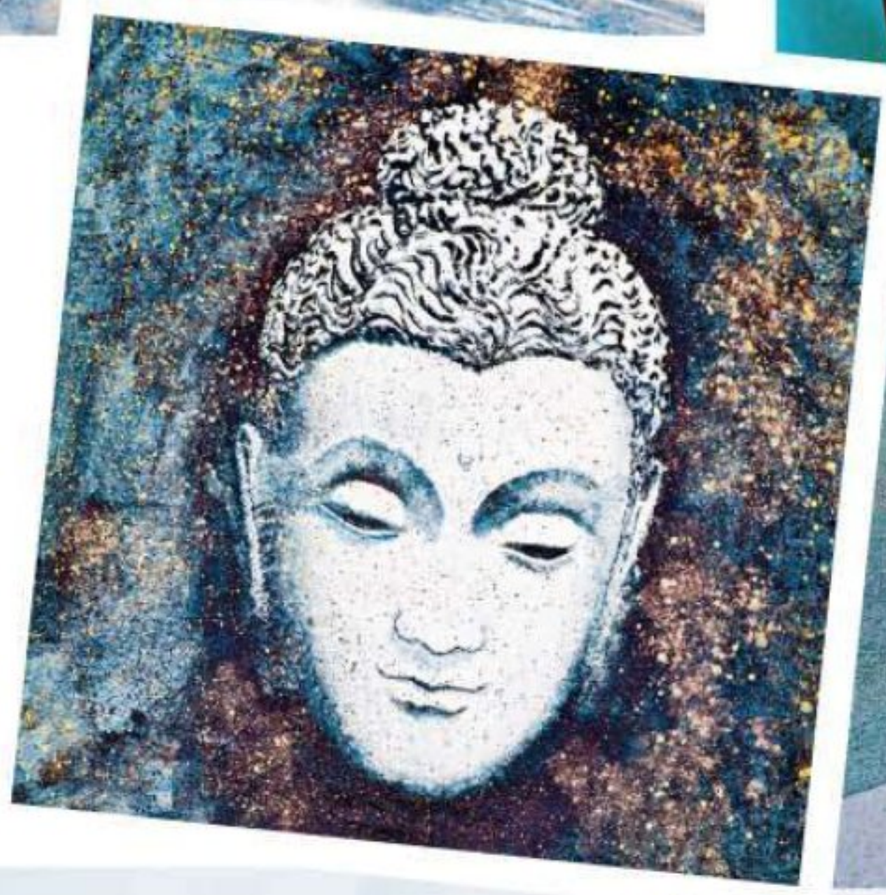
FACT SHEET
Plot area: approximately 10,000 sq ft
Built up area: approximately 7,000 sq ft
Completion frame: May 2005 to May 2007
Principal Architect and Interior Designer: Sanjay Porwal, Kalayojan.
Landscape Design: Sanjay Porwal and Shilpa Chandawarkar
Structural Consultants: ACDC Pvt. Ltd.
Contractor: Jinesh Doshi
Site Management: Deepak Punjabi

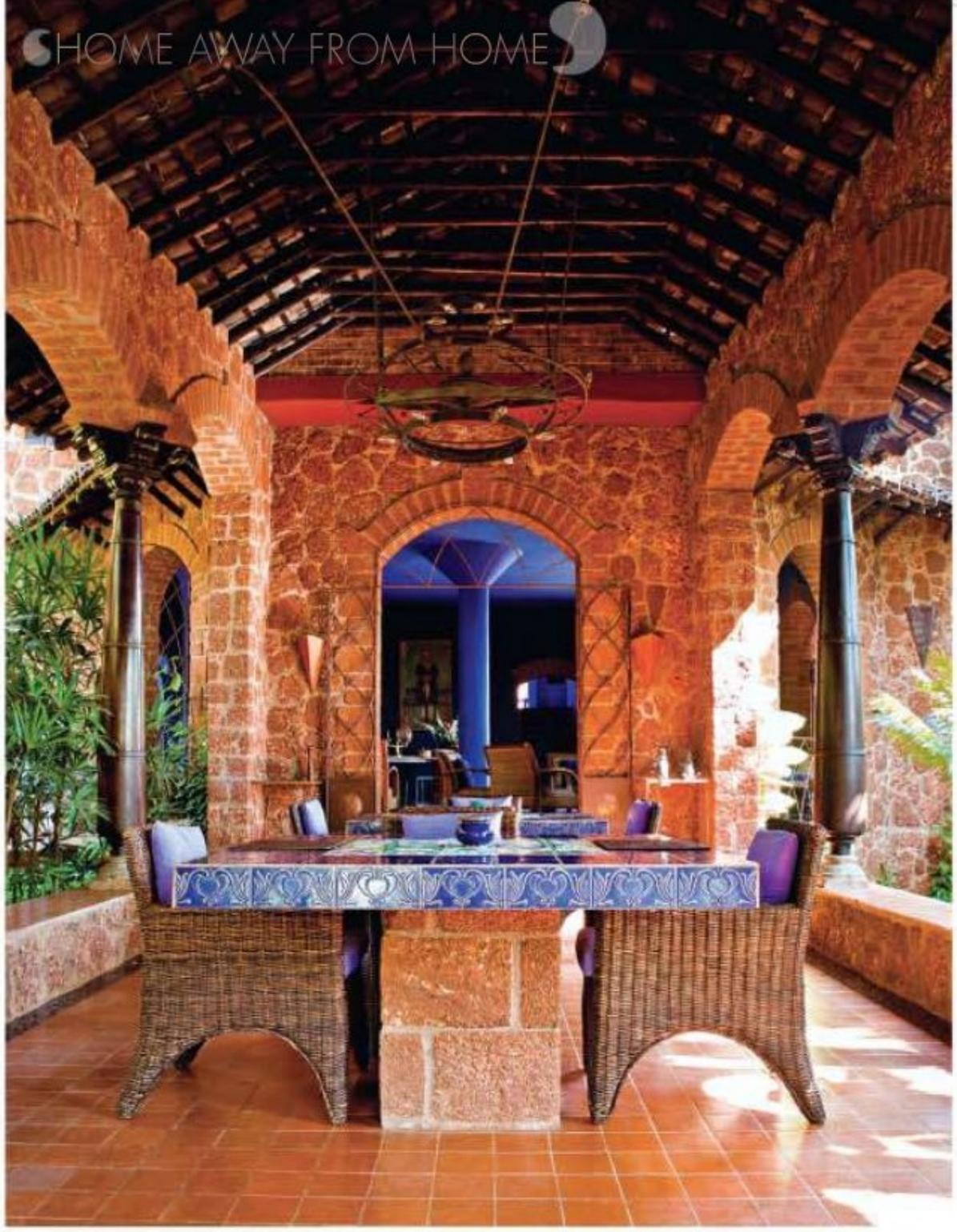
Blue Haven

Nilaya Hermitage is a perfect rendezvous of natural beauty, architectural grandeur and ultimate rejuvenation

Benoy Sebastian Kunal Heble

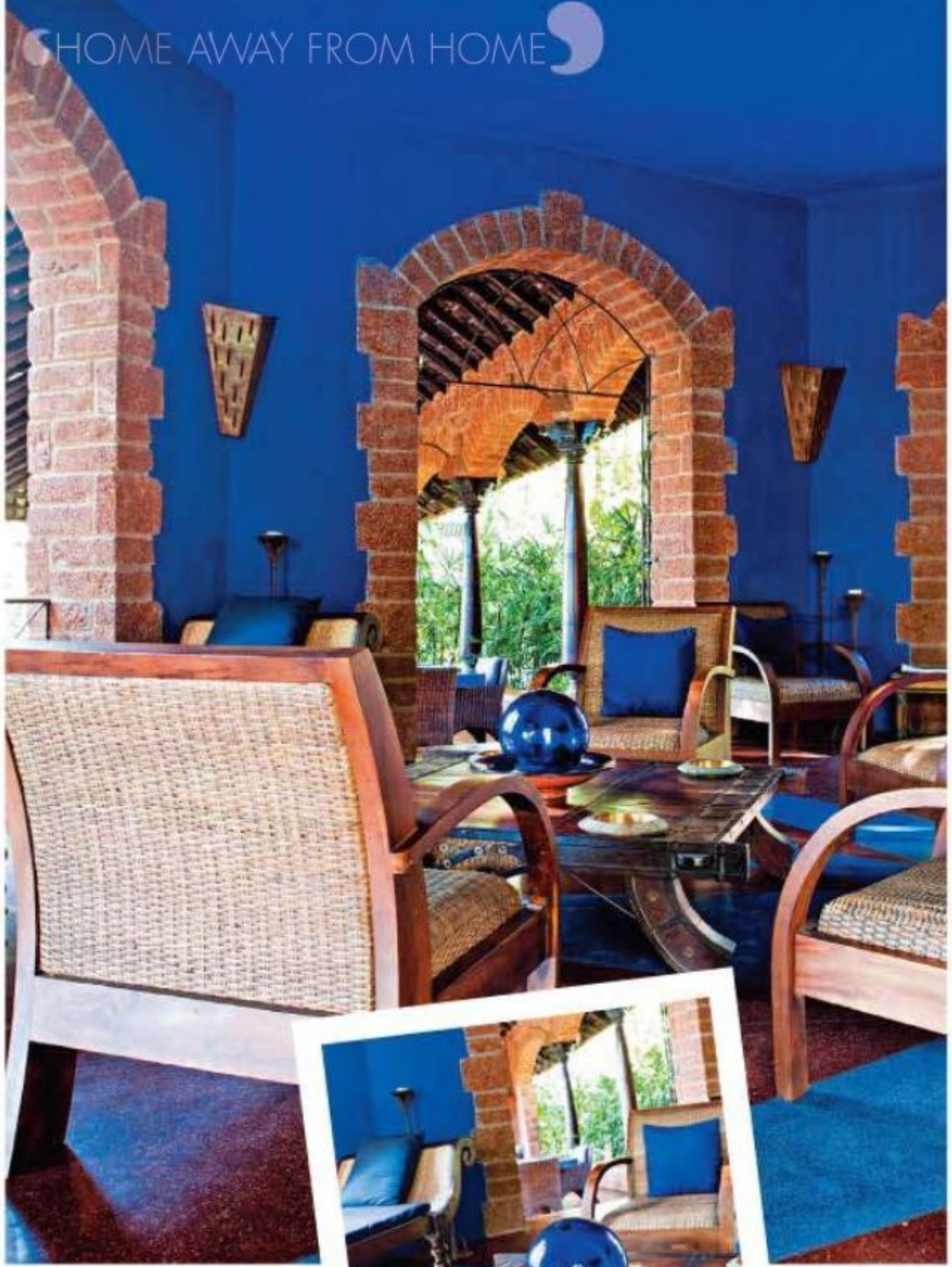
Tucked away in the scenic hills of Arpora with stunning vistas of the ocean below, Nilaya, Goa's leading boutique hotel, will engulf you with its serene settings and as you sit back, unwind and get pampered.

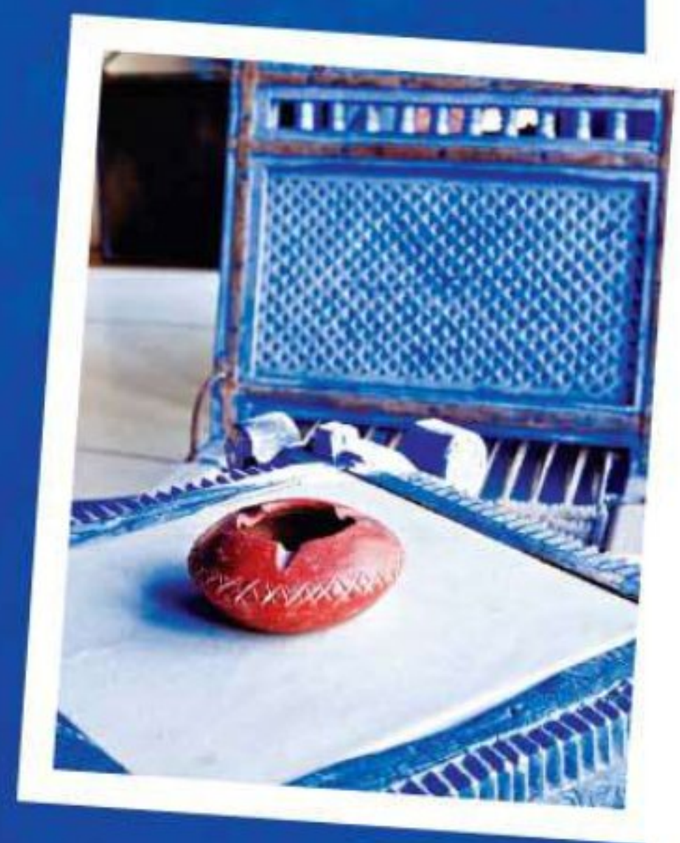




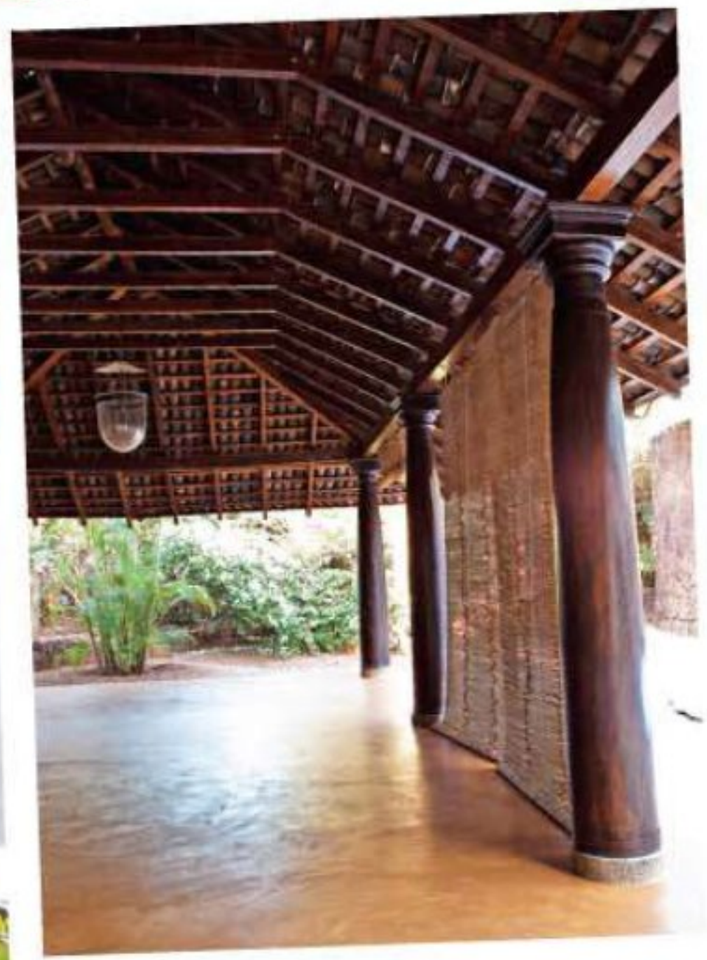
THE RETREAT

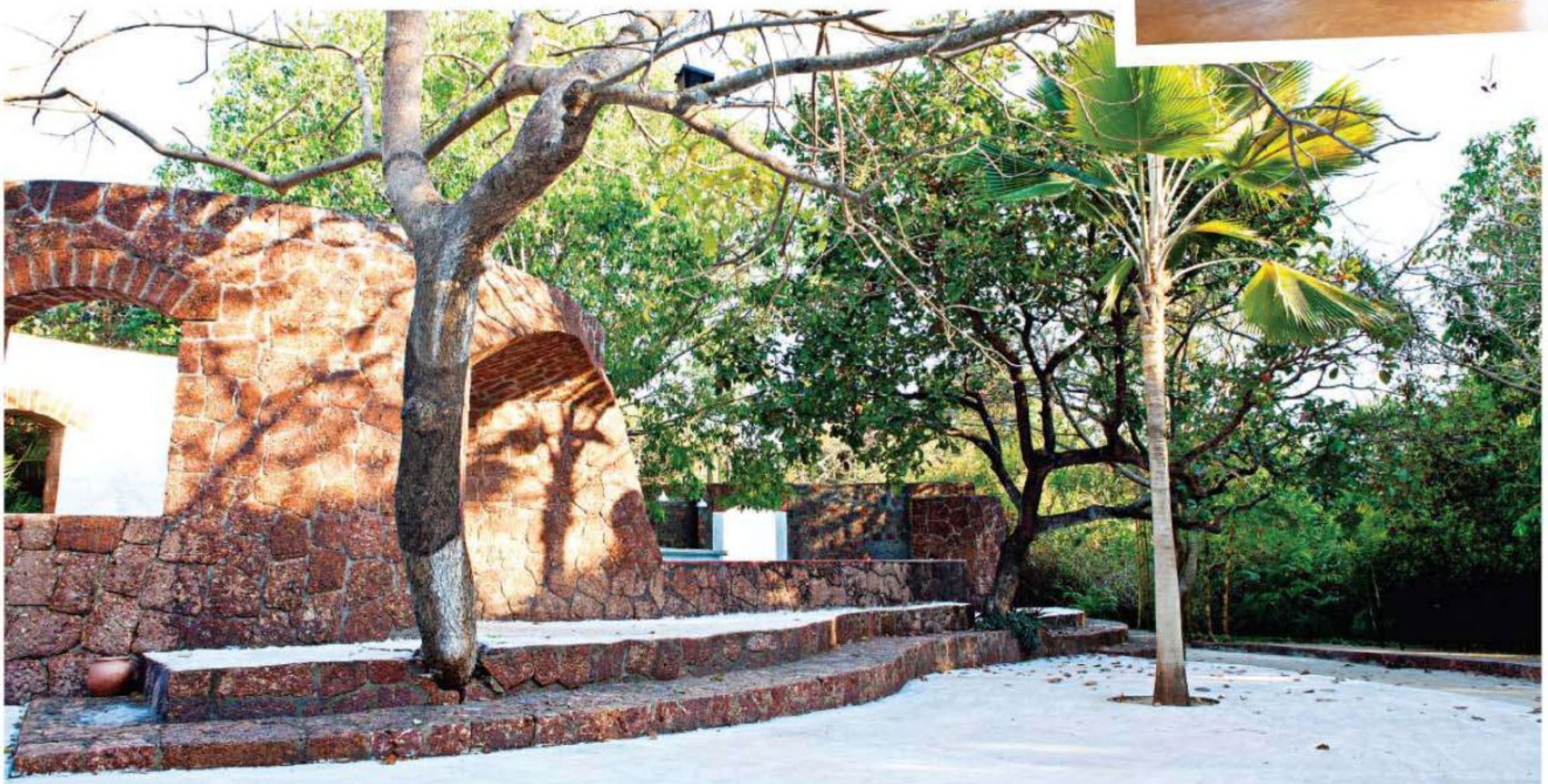
Nilaya Hermitage is tiny and exclusive. Its peers in the hospitality industry acclaim it as one of the best for its unique Asian-European styling as well as for its speciality service. Superbly designed rooms impart an aura that deliberately avoids the starchy, five-star formality. We were enamoured by the breakfast area held up by teak columns which originally occupied place in a temple in Kerala. The usual bustle of a seaside resort is what you'll find missing at Nilaya - instead, the twelve guest rooms, each one fashioned in a distinctive, detailed style embraces you. What's interesting is that the rooms are not numbered but named after cosmic elements - sun,

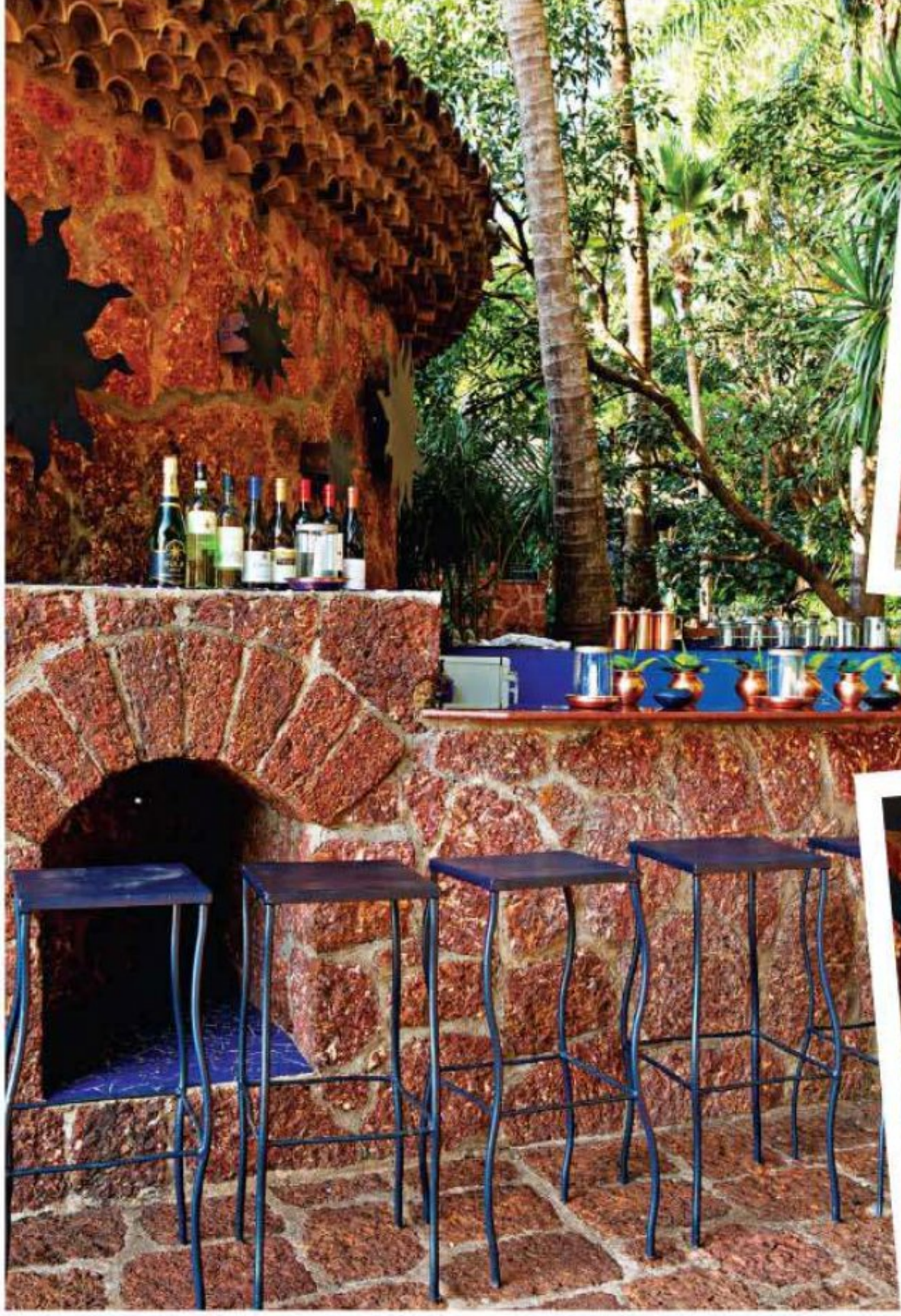


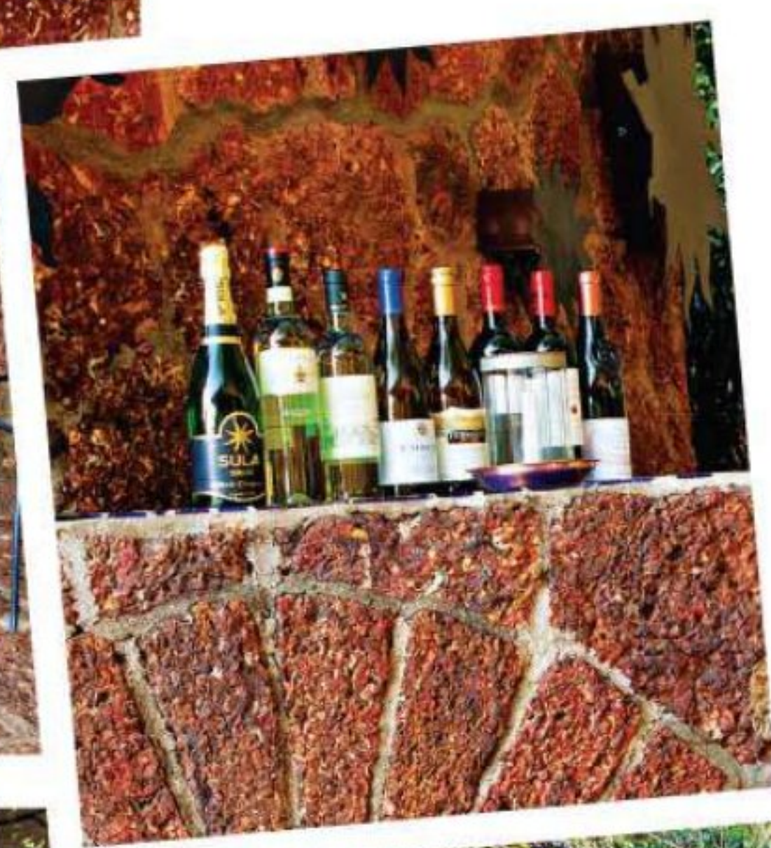


moon, soul, earth, fire, etc. Nilaya itself means heaven and is the brainchild of fashion stylist Claudia Derain and her husband, engineer Hari Ajwani. The duo created this hip resort in collaboration with celebrated local architect Dean d'Cruz. It's out-fitted mostly with rough-cut laterite stone - a local Goan speciality. The design style is an exotic mosaic of Moghul domes and Moorish arches, echoes of Arabian Nights, juxtaposed with elements from Hindu temples, a dash of Barcelona (think Gaudi-esque pillars and crazy-paved ceramics) and a dazzling Rajasthani colour palette of saffron, emerald, bronze and splashes of heavenly blues. Lounge on the silk daybeds in the mosque inspired music room and loose yourself to the cosmic world that surrounds you. Dine in style under the stars by the lavish poolside or sip on a cocktail at sunset, with a jungle of coconut palms, mango and papaya, laced with bougainvillea forming a backdrop. That's not all – soak in the fantastic sea views at the foot of the hills - so near, yet a world away. That's the world at your feet at Nilaya Hermitage!



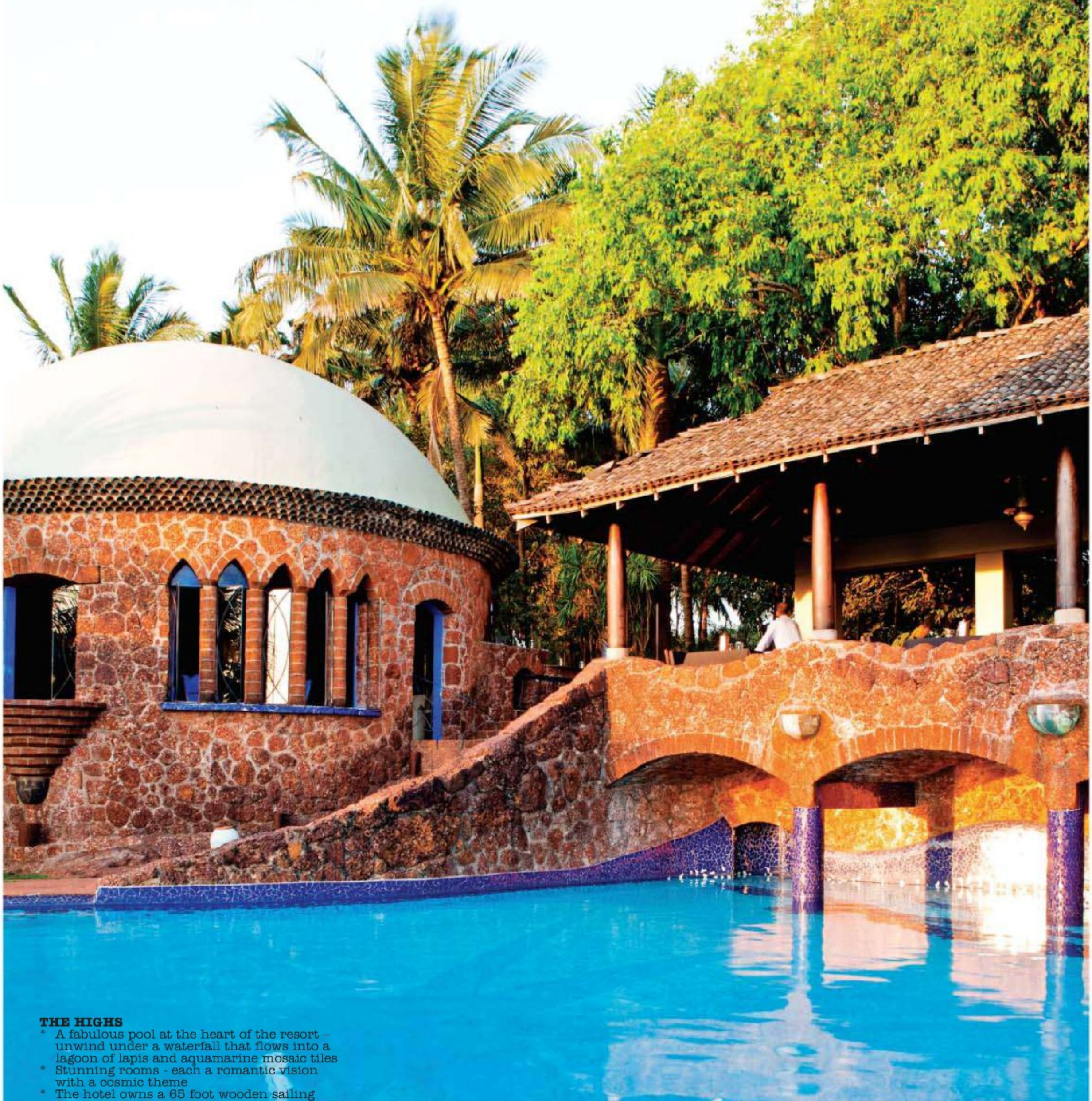






RELAX AND REJUVENATE

Nilaya has its very own ayurvedic massage centre with professional in-house Ayurvedic doctors. Their health club is not geared up for energetic sports or exceedingly vigorous exercise (though they do have a state of the art gym, jogging trails as well as a tennis court). Instead, Nilaya's USP is all about relaxation and well-being with therapies which include ayurvedic oil massages, steam baths and yoga.



THE HIGHS

* A fabulous pool at the heart of the resort – unwind under a waterfall that flows into a lagoon of lapis and aquamarine mosaic tiles
* Stunning rooms - each a romantic vision with a cosmic theme
* The hotel owns a 65 foot wooden sailing dhow on hire for day cruises or parties, with on-board catering
* Set in 20 acres of lush gardens surrounded by tropical forests and two kilometres from Goa's Arabian Sea beaches
* Efficient and courteous service staff - on hand just when you need them
* A dedicated treatment centre offering relaxation therapies, including ayurvedic massage

RECREATION

* 33 meter long free-form swimming pool
* Tennis and badminton courts
* Yoga and stretching areas
* Steam Bath
* Jogging Trail
* Library for books as well as DVD's

BEACH PARTY

The hot spots in closest proximity....

* Arpora Beach - 2 kilometres
* Baga Beach - 3 kilometres
* Calangute Beach - 5 kilometres
* Panaji - 17 kilometres
* Anjuna Beach- 2 kilometres
* Dabolim - 50 kilometres

ACCESSIBILITY

Dabolim Airport at 50 kilometres
Thivim Railway Station at 20 kilometres

Have the holiday of a lifetime at:
Nilaya Hermitage
Arpora 403518, Goa

In Harmony With Nature

Original, aesthetic and obsessed with details - that's Total Environment Building's 'Windmills of Your Mind' project in Bengaluru. Read on to share their passion for design and quality

Benoy Sebastian | Total Environment

PASSION DRIVEN

Total Environment is an architect-led real estate design and development firm that builds furnished and customised homes with a focus on functional design. It has, over the last 14 years, won many national and international awards for design and quality of workmanship. Innovative concepts like terrace gardens and water-bodies with every apartment, earth covered villas and smart-homes, use of natural materials for a warmer feel and lower maintenance with better ageing are some of the design elements that the group has always incorporated. Promoted by architect Kamal Sagar, principal architect and CEO, Total Environment believes in building homes with a unique character that blends in with the environment.

TRIPLE MAGIC

DUPLEX APARTMENTS AND PENTHOUSES look out on to a landscaped private garden and pool.

CIRCULAR APARTMENTS balance privacy and space. The three bedroom circular homes are certainly unique!

BESPOKE VILLAS are designed over three split-levels with ample natural light and ventilation. Laid back elegance blends with comfort.

FEATURES AND AMENITIES

The carpet area of each home is always 80% of the super-built-up area and the terrace gardens, being part of the built-up area, are inclusive of the carpet area. Cantilevered terrace gardens accompany every apartment. The homes come with a one year warranty with Total Environment completely taking care of the maintenance. Their comprehensive maintenance package, includes 24-hour security, garbage collection, landscaping and mailing services, to name a few. Home owners can also avail value-added services like carpentry, plumbing, painting and steel fabrication.

CUSTOMISATION
Total Environment offers online tools that help potential customers customise their property. Known as E-build, this proprietary online tool helps in customisation of landscapes, walls, cabinets, electrical outlay, fixtures and finishes. E-build also provides instant information on costs and feasibility.

CONTACT DETAILS
Total Environment Building Systems Private Limited IMAGINE, No. 78 ITPL Main Road EPIP Zone Whitefield, Bangalore. Call: (080) 42453000

ABOUT WINDMILL

The project comprises living spaces designed to be in harmony with nature. Artistically crafted, it uses a 25 acre canvas for villas, penthouses, circular and duplex apartments. It is situated at the periphery of the Export Promotion Zone (EPIP) at Whitefield, which is en-route to ITPB (International Technology Park, Bengaluru) and is located right behind the facility of SAP Labs. This landmark project has been the recipient of the CNBC Best Architecture (multiple units) Asia Pacific (2009) and CNBC Best Development India (2009) awards. Impeccably designed, Windmills is an amalgamation of greenery and water bodies and is located very close to the Satya Sai Baba Ashram in Whitefield. The property is around 3-4 kilometres from Whitefield Railway Station and 55 kilometres away from the Bengaluru International Airport at Devanahalli.

Get your taste buds tingling with crispy, delicious and healthy salads this season

Vanita Arora Ravi Dhingra

Salad Days!

Fresh and gently flavoured, these crunchy salads are truly seasonal and refreshing. Shamsul Wahid, Executive Sous Chef, Smoke House Deli and Smoke House Grill, puts together a fresh combination of flavours that are high on nutrition and work as all-time treats.

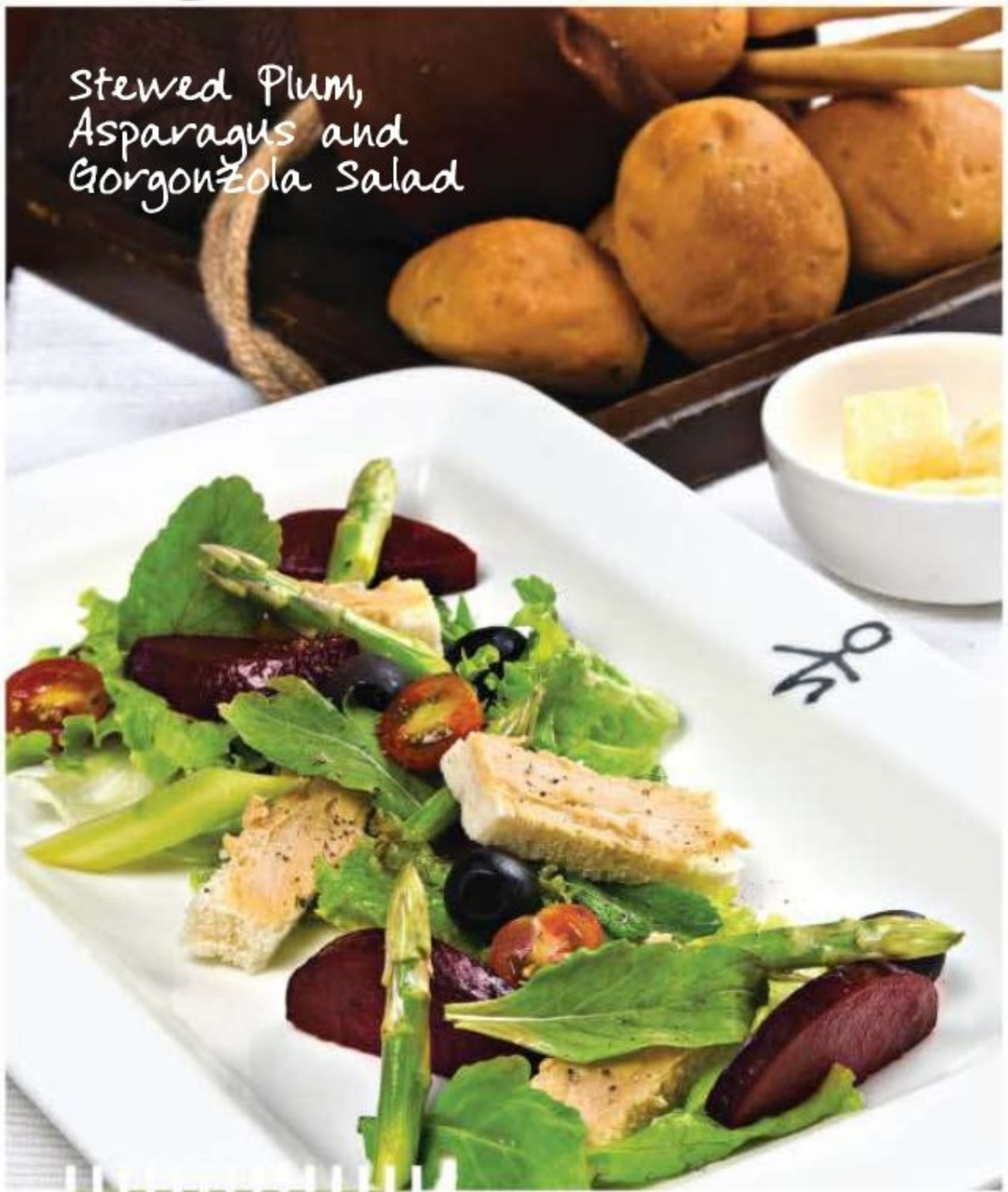
Asparagus Grape Salad

METHOD

- Wash and soak the figs in hot water until soft
- Blend the figs with white wine vinegar, salad oil and honey
- Refrigerate the dressing
- In a mixing bowl, mix half the dressing with lettuce leaves and place the lettuce on the plate
- In the same bowl, mix together asparagus, grapes, cherry tomatoes and pine nut with rest of the dressing
- Serve chilled

YOU NEED:
30 gms Asparagus, 25 gms Grapes, 3 Cherry Tomatoes, 5 gms Pine Nut, 120 gms Mix Lettuce

DRESSING:
25 gms Fig, 10 ml White Wine Vinegar, 10 ml Salad Oil, 5 ml Honey



Stewed Plum, Asparagus and Gorgonzola Salad

YOU NEED:
35 gms Plums de-seeded and cored, 25 ml Red Wine, 1 stick Cinnamon, 1 Star Anise, 120 gms Mix Lettuce, 20 gms Asparagus, 3 Cherry Tomatoes, 15 gms Black Olive, 5 gms Pine Nuts

DRESSING:
20 ml Raspberry Vinegar, 15 ml Olive Oil, 5 gms Salt, 5 gms Pepper, 10 gms Gorgonzola, 1 Slice Bread

METHOD

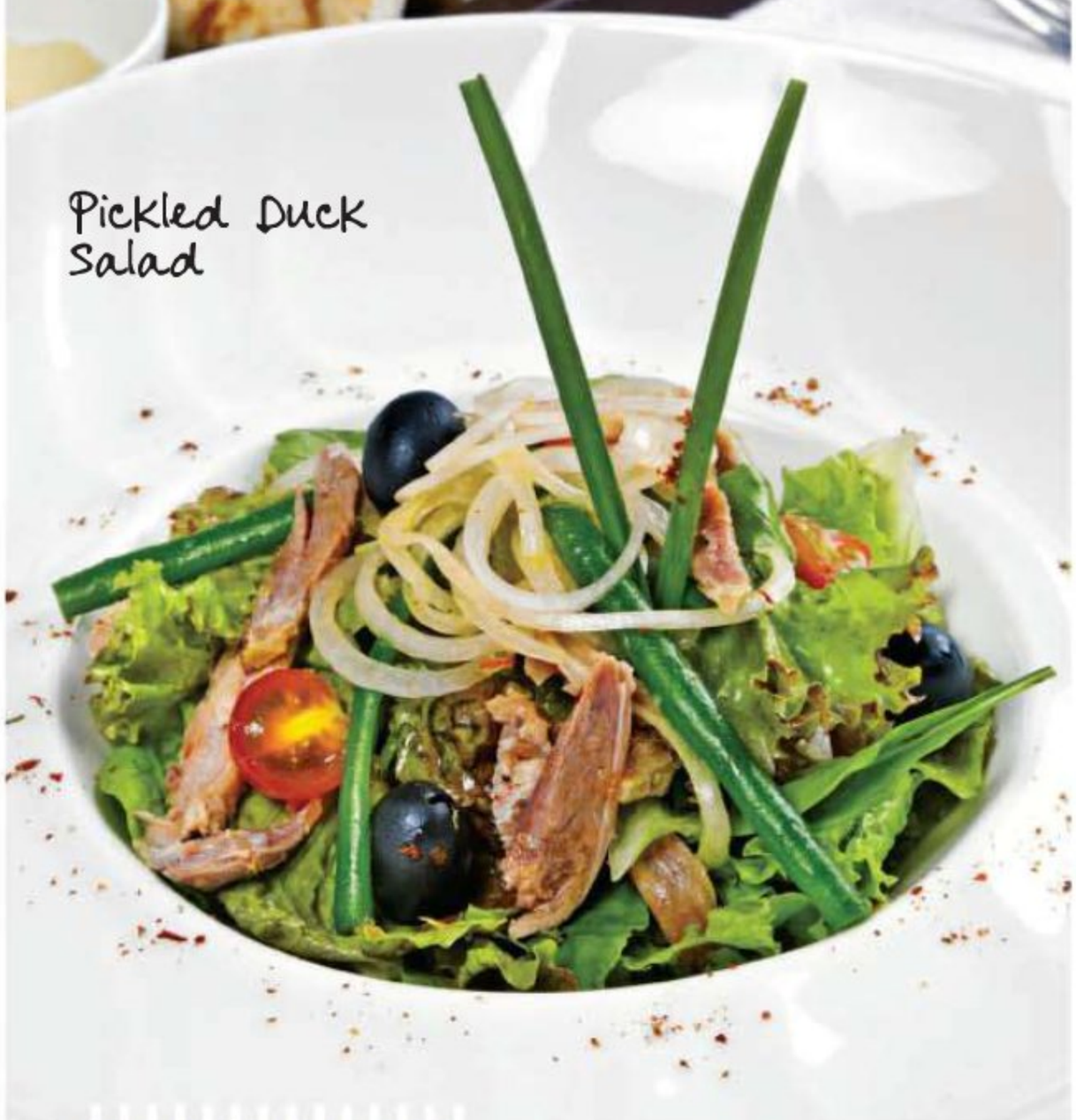
- In a pan, add red wine, star anise, cinnamon and plums and cook for half an hour
- Cut the asparagus into long batons
- Mix raspberry, vinegar, olive oil and seasoning and set side
- Cut the bread into slices and toast them
- Spread the Gorgonzola on the toasts
- In a mixing bowl, mix half the dressing and lettuce and place on the salad plate. In the same bowl, mix the other half of the dressing, the plums and the asparagus and place on top of the lettuce
- Garnish with Gorgonzola croutons
- Serve chilled

Chicken and Mango Salad

YOU NEED:
100 ml Mango Juice, 100 ml Vinegar, 1 whole Mango (Safeda), 30 gms Olives, 30 gms Cherry Tomato, 125 gms Chicken, 30 ml Pesto, 10 gms Feta, 60 gms Iceberg, 30 gms Lollo Rosso, 60 gms Romaine

METHOD

- Combine mango juice and vinegar and reduce until syrupy
- Make a puree out of the half mango, dice the rest
- Wash the lettuce and refrigerate it
- Combine the mango puree and mango reduce and refrigerate
- Make Roulade out of chicken breast and pesto
- Cook and set aside to cool. Then slice evenly
- In a bowl, mix all the lettuce and add half of the mango mixture
- Set the lettuce in a plate
- In another bowl mix the rest of the ingredients except the feta; add the remaining dressing
- Place this on top of the lettuce
- Crumble some feta on top
- Serve chilled



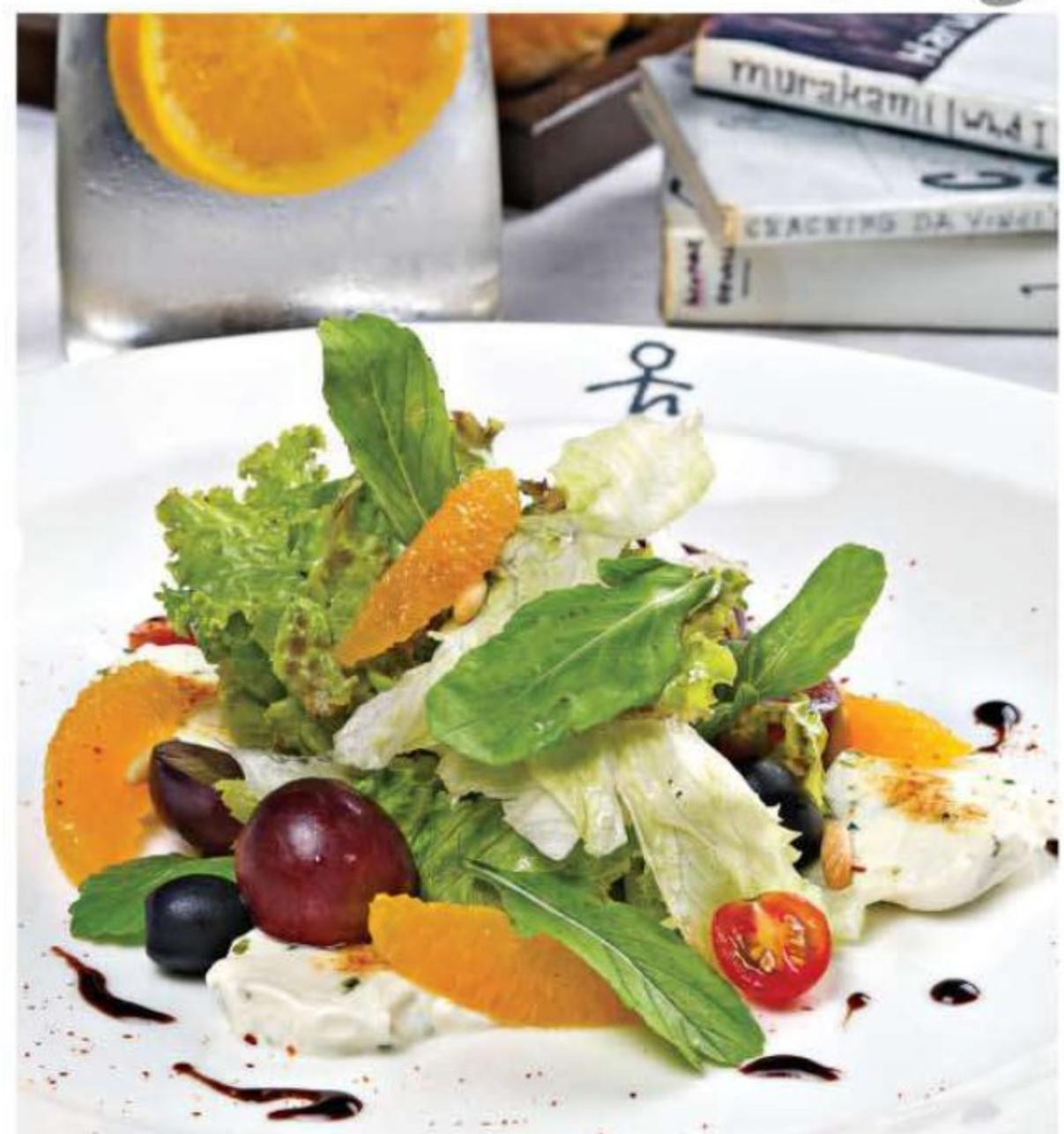
Pickled Duck Salad

YOU NEED:
50 gms Duck Meat, 20 gms French Beans, 10 gms White Onion Roundels, 120 gms Mix Lettuce, 2 Cherry Tomatoes

DRESSING:
10 gms Sweet Lime Pickle, 10 gms Lime Pickle, 5 ml Vinegar, 5ml Sugar

METHOD

- Blend sweet lime pickle and lime pickle
- Add vinegar and sugar and set aside. In a mixing bowl, mix half the dressing with the lettuce and place on the plate
- In the same bowl, add the duck meat, french beans and white onion and mix with the rest of the dressing
- Place this mixture on top of the lettuce
- Garnish with cherry tomatoes
- Serve chilled



Oak Ash Chevred, Grape and Orange Salad

YOU NEED:
60 gms Oak Ash Chevre', 30 gms Grapes, Orange segments of half an orange, 10 gms Pinenuts, 10 gms Walnuts, 40 gms Iceberg, 30 gms Lollo Rosso, 30 gms Romaine, 100 ml Passion Fruit Juice, 100 ml Vinegar, 10 ml Olive oil, Salt and Pepper

METHOD

- Wash the leaves well
- Dip in ice cold water. Take out and set aside
- Reduce passion fruit juice and vinegar together until syrupy
- Cut and de-seed the grapes
- Roast the pine nuts and walnuts until golden brown and set aside

TO ASSEMBLE THE SALAD

- Mix the lettuce, half the passion fruit reduction, olive oil and salt and pepper in a large bowl
- Mix the leaves well so that each leaf is coated with the dressing
- Cut roundels of Chevre' and keep on a plate
- Place the lettuce on top of the Chevre'

RECIPES BY:
Shamsul Wahid, Executive Sous Chef, Smoke House Grill and Smoke House Deli

CLICKED AT:
Smoke House Deli, Ground Floor, DLF Promenade Mall Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj New Delhi 110 070 Ph: (011) 4607 5646

Flower Power

Make a beautiful hanging display with an array of colourful flowers that will bring your garden into your porch or patio

Vanita Arora Ravi Dhingra
FNP Tahiliani

With unbridled imagination, create a visual delight that will enliven your interiors like never before. Decide on a theme — choose from lush trailing plants to central feature plants, fragrant flowers or plants that will add colour to the basket — and just get started! Remember, you can also mix soft pastels and bold colours and add foliage such as ivy or fern to accentuate the effect.

You need

TOOLS
- 10x10cms Bamboo Basket
- 1 Clear White Cellophane Sheet
- 2 pieces Oasis - 9x4cms
- Flower Cutter
- Small piece of Chicken wire
- Thin Metal wire
- Cable Clips, Knife
- Strong wall bracket to hold the weight of the basket along with flowers

FLOWERS
- Dendrobium Orchid - (Purple)
- Lillium Oriental - Pink
- Red Roses
- White Roses
- Hydrangea - Baby Pink
- Eustoma - Dark Pink, Light Pink
- Liatris – Purple
- Ivy leaves for fillers

• Take the bamboo basket

• Place cellophane sheet in the basket

• Keep water soaked oasis on the top

• Tighten it with chicken wire for a firm base to support the weight of the flowers

For Oasis:
- *Select the right foam for the flowers. Green water-retaining foam works best for fresh flowers*
- *Drop the foam in the water filled bucket so that it absorbs the water completely. Avoid submerging forcibly as this will result in dry spots and cause the stems to wilt. Also avoid placing it directly under the tap. When the top of the foam levels with the surface of water, take it out immediately and allow it to drain.*
- *Over soaking can cause the foam to break*

• Cut the flower stems with the flower cutter to the required length as per the arrangement and setting planned

• Remove all extra leaves or the ones you think will not show in the display • Use your fingers and not scissors to remove stamens from lilies as this will make the flowers last longer

• To create a focal point, try using flowers in different stages of development, from bud to full bloom

Strike a balance while placing the flowers. The structure of the container and the plants should be in proportion so that the basket doesn't get heavy on one side

CLICKED AT:
FNP Tahiliani
10, MG Road
Mangol Puri
New Delhi

• Start placing the flowers on the oasis, as per the theme planned. When pushing stems into the foam, make sure that the bottom of the stem stays in contact with it

• Tie the basket with the wire, fix the bracket to the wall and hook your hanging basket to the desired height. To ensure safety, it is important to check whether the bracket is properly fixed to the wall.

Farm food could be just an arm away if you convert your kitchen window in to a kitchen garden. All you need is a bit of effort, patience and knowledge to have a green corner in the middle of your house. Start with potting a few garden plants on your window. Water, manure and prune them regularly to enjoy a flourishing kitchen garden!

Greens' in!

Use your kitchen window for more than just letting out the smoke. Convert it into a mini garden and reap the benefits

Chenelle Rodrigues | Mahesh Reddy | Go Green Nursery

Small windows should not restrict your blooming opportunities; they just call for more prep and planning.

NO EXCUSES - USE THE WINDOW

SILL OR NO SILL

All you need is a ledge on your kitchen window sill where a planter can be placed. The width of the sill will determine the size of the pots. Windows without a sill could be converted into a garden space with boxed planters along the length of the window. Plants can spill over outside or branch indoors. Wrought iron holders or stands make for good planters.

SHUTTERS OR SLIDERS

If your window has shutters, make provisions to place your planters either lower down or away from the shutter. You definitely do not want the shutters ruining and tearing your foliage or hitting the pots. Considering boxed planters? Place them low enough so that, even when your plants grow out, they don't come in the way of the shutters. Sliding windows save you that bother.

GRILLS OR NO GRILLS

Grills provide support for creepers and a perch for accessories and hanging-pots. Grills designed to form a box on the outside of your window make more room for a green patch. Windows with no grills allow additional air and sunlight into the kitchen. A wood or wrought iron pedestal can be fitted to hold planters and hooks could be provided for accessories. Creepers have various support options.

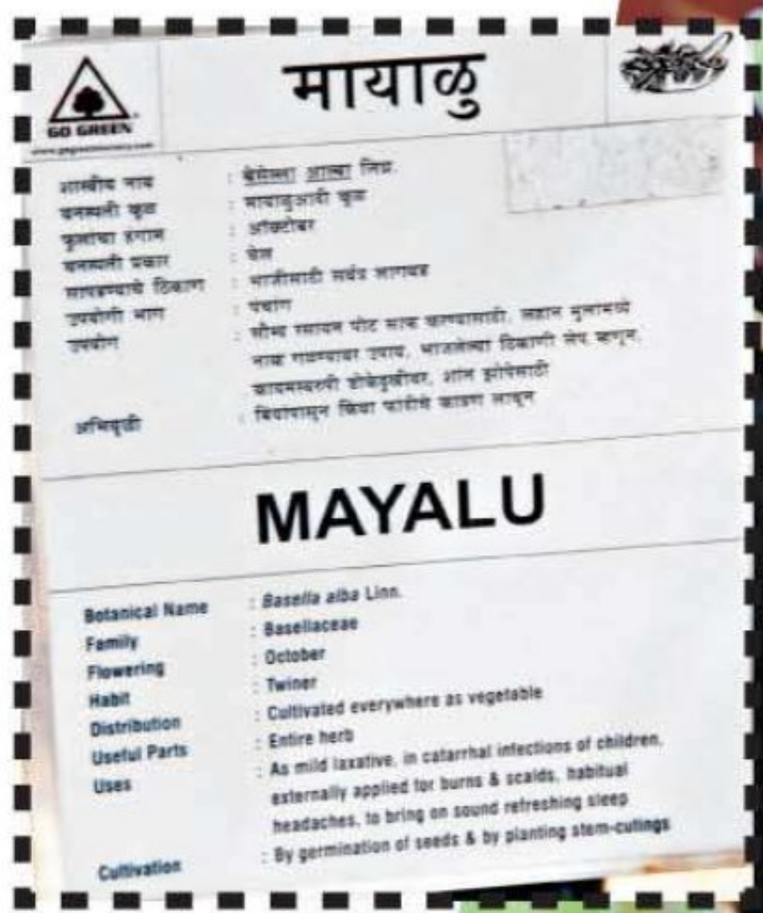
PLANTS AND PLANTERS

SUN AND SHADE

Some plants are sun loving, while others adore shade and still others thrive in semi-shade. Keep in mind the direction in which your window faces before you choose the plants for your garden. For instance, peppermint and black pepper are semi-shade lovers while lemon grass flourishes in sunlight.

SIZE MATTERS

Choose your planters based on the type of your plant. Make allowances for the size that the plant is likely to grow to, whether the plant is a creeper, a herb and so on. For instance, an aubergine or chilly plant will require a pot size of about eight to ten inches. A window will, of course, not take the weight of a big plant; so avoid



A plant will grow equally well in a plastic pot as in an earthen one.

plants like curry leaf, cinnamon and nutmeg which gain weight as they grow.

SPACE-OUT

Make sure you do not crowd the window with too many green elements. Windows provide ventilation and let in natural light, both of which are essential to a kitchen. Too many pots, overgrown plants and a thick foliage will hamper these essential functions and will lead to a dull space and reduce kitchen efficiency.

JAIPHAL

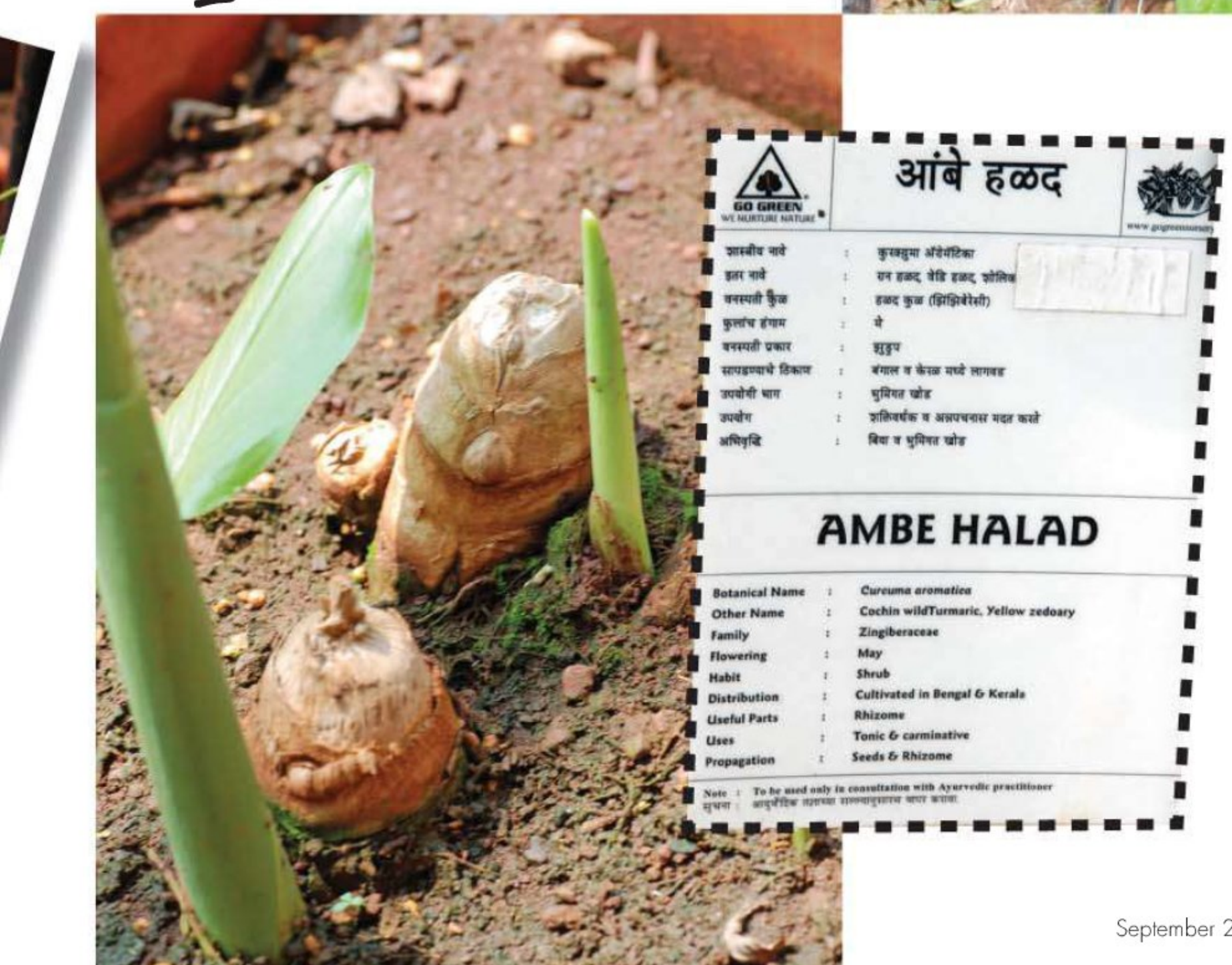
Any hollow container can be used as a planter :- old boots, sneakers, discarded tins, old buckets, coconut shells, cut bottles, old piggy banks, boxes, etc. Turn them into accents for your green space.

IN SUPPORT

ON A PEDESTAL

Pedestals vary in strength and sizes and can be made of wood, wrought iron, marble, et all; even a chest of drawers or a cabinet placed near the window could be repurposed as a pedestal for your plant pots. Whatever you choose to keep your plants on, make sure it is strong and steady. Planters come in a variety of sizes and materials, like terracotta, plastic, ceramic, cement, etc. Chillies, aubergines and leafy vegetables make ideal pots to be placed on a pedestal!

PINEAPPLE



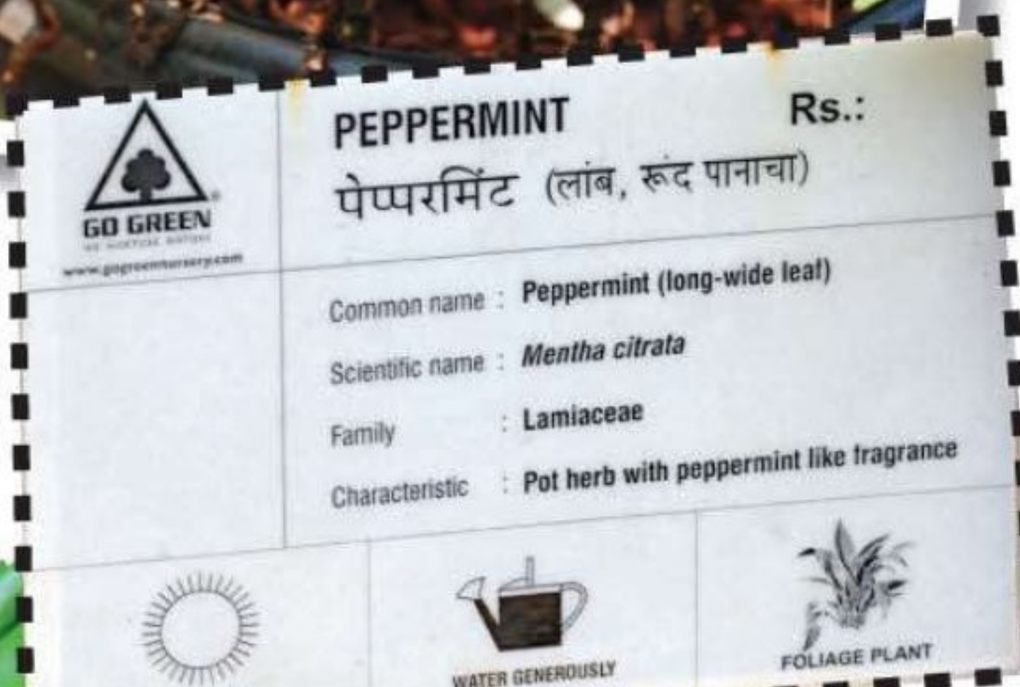
HANG IN THERE

Hanging pots give the appearance of a fuller garden. Hook a couple of pots on the top and let the foliage trail downwards as it grows. Peppermint and lemon grass plants are good options.

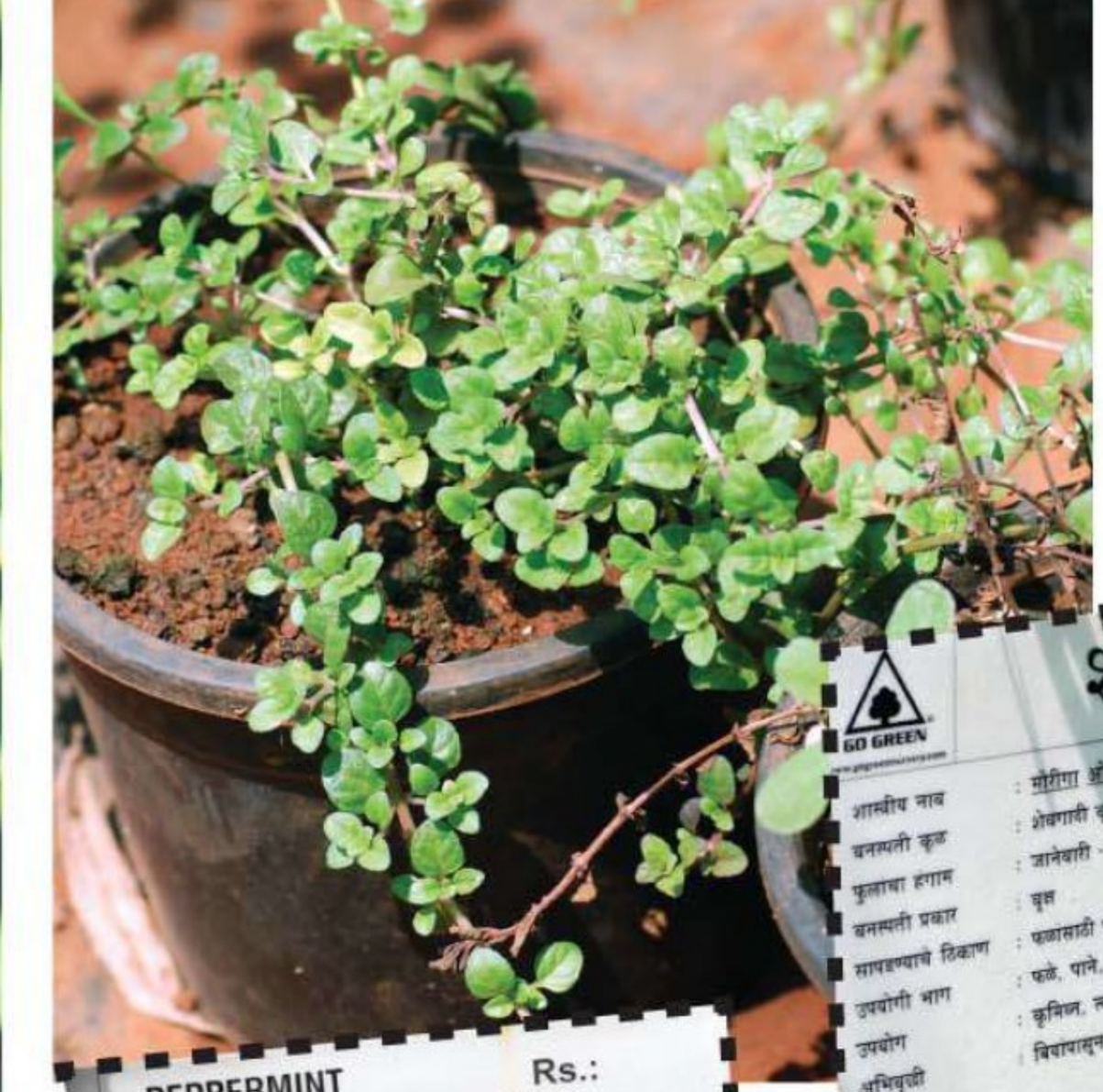
Plastic pots are preferred over earthen ones when it comes to the hanging variety as they are lighter. An effective way to reduce the pot's weight is to mix thermocol balls or coco pit with the garden soil - apart from reducing weight, thermocol also aids in water retention, while coco pit is an organic manure.

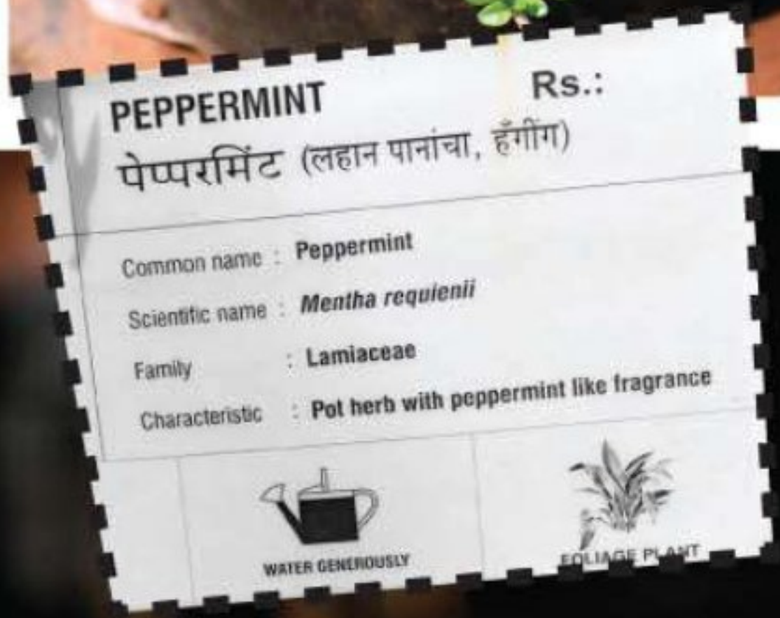
HELP-LINE

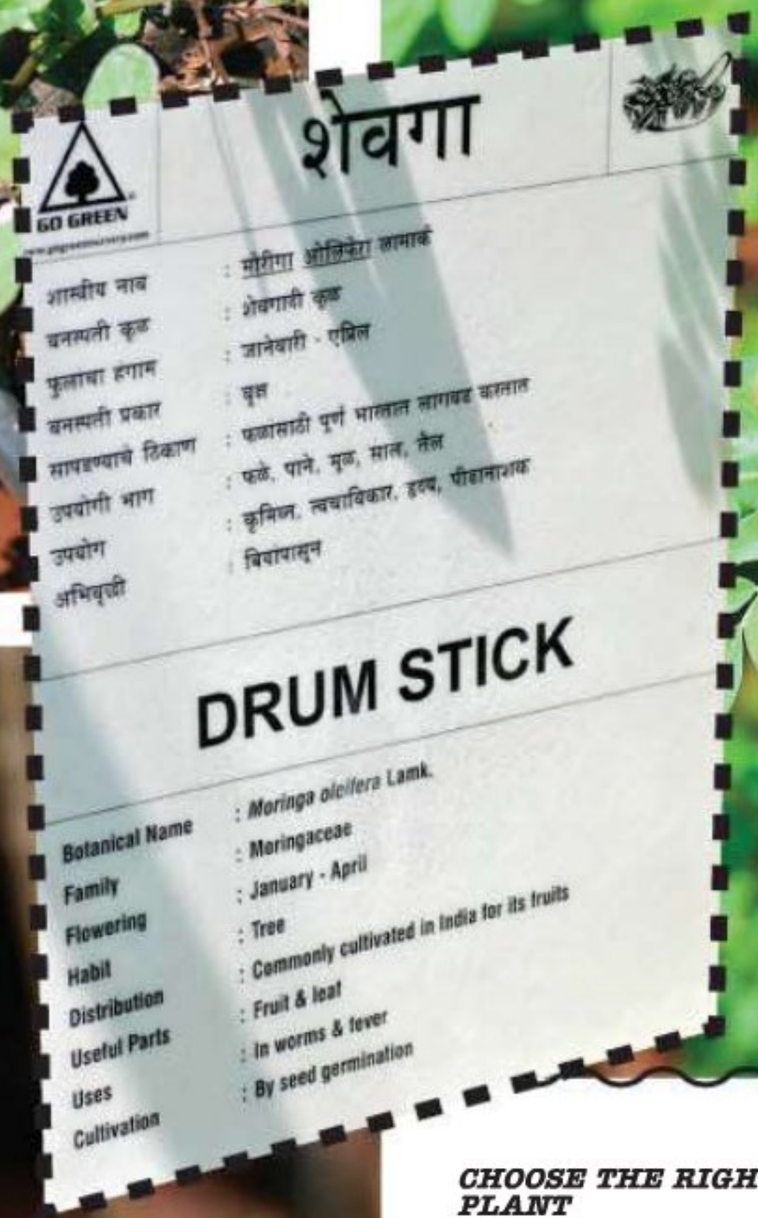
Creepers, at their initial shoot-sprouting stage, grow steady. It's only when they reach their 'true leaf' that they need support. This can be provided by using grills, sticks, moss sticks, cages, ropes, etc. A creeper cage inserted over a pot allows the plant limited space to wind around. This acts as a space saver and prevents dense over-growth on your window sills. A few sticks placed in the pot will also do the trick. If you have the space, let a rope hang from or near the planter in which the creeper in sown; it'll trail down the suspended support. Betel, black pepper, mayaloo and gourds are creepers which can be ingested too.



use a bird cage as a support for a creeper and it will embellish your garden too.







CHOOSE THE RIGHT PLANT

CHILLIES AND AUBERGINES
These plants, if well-tended to and maintained, can survive all year round. However, the produce deteriorates with every yield. So, it's best to re-grow them. Sow the plant in January so they bear fruit in summer. Re-plant in monsoons for the next batch of chillies and aubergines.

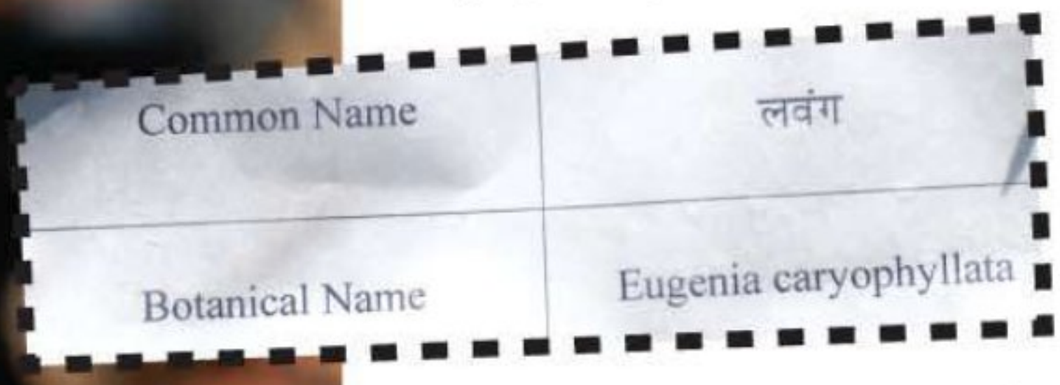
LEAFY VEGETABLES:
If you pluck vegetables like spinach, methi and coriander up to their stems, the stumps will grow into leaves. If you uproot them, you'll have to regrow them again. Sow the seeds any time of the year for a ready produce in two to three months. Usually, leafy vegetables grow in cycles of about four months.

BETEL:
The betel creeper can grow on almost any support - on a grill, a creeper cage or a moss stick. It's one of the few plants that can sustain in moss. Set a moss stick in the pot or suspend it from a support. Make innovative planters by using moss in net baskets, coconut husks, etc.

BLACK PEPPER:
Support this climber on grills. Its dense growth makes creeper cages unsuitable and the water retention property of moss renders moss sticks untenable too. Once the pepper pods grow to their full size, separate the seeds and dry them before you store or consume them.

MAYALOO:
If you want a quick creeper foliage, this is it. Mayaloo is fast growing and spreads quickly. It's more of an ornamental plant. The leaf is usually used in cooking but not the fruit. Let it grow over a grill, if you have one. If not, a creeper cage would be suitable. Mayaloo rots if hydrated too much; so moss-sticks are not an option.

GOURDS:
Cucumbers, bitter gourds, sponge gourds, etc. are monsoon creepers. These are semi-shade loving plants and wither after they fruit. Re-plant them the following season. The little gourd, on the other hand, is a sun worshipper and perennial in both growth and produce.



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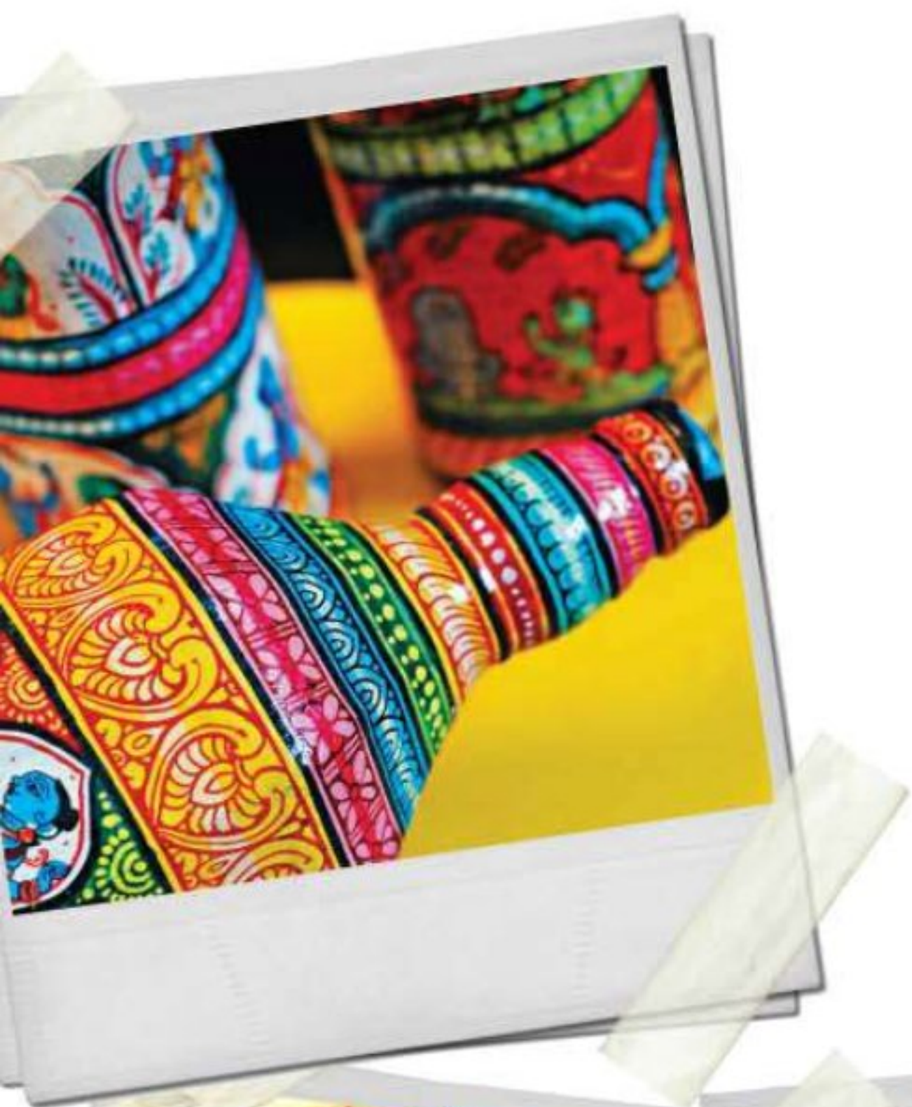

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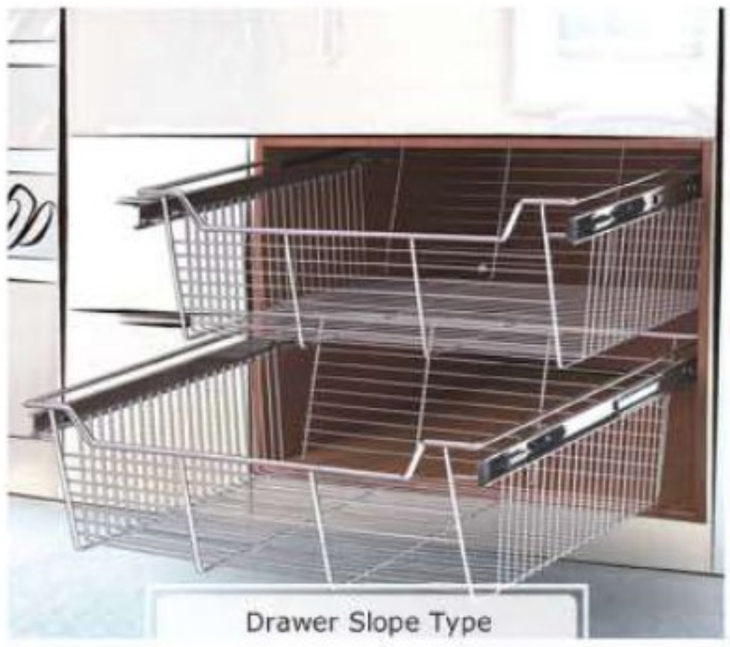
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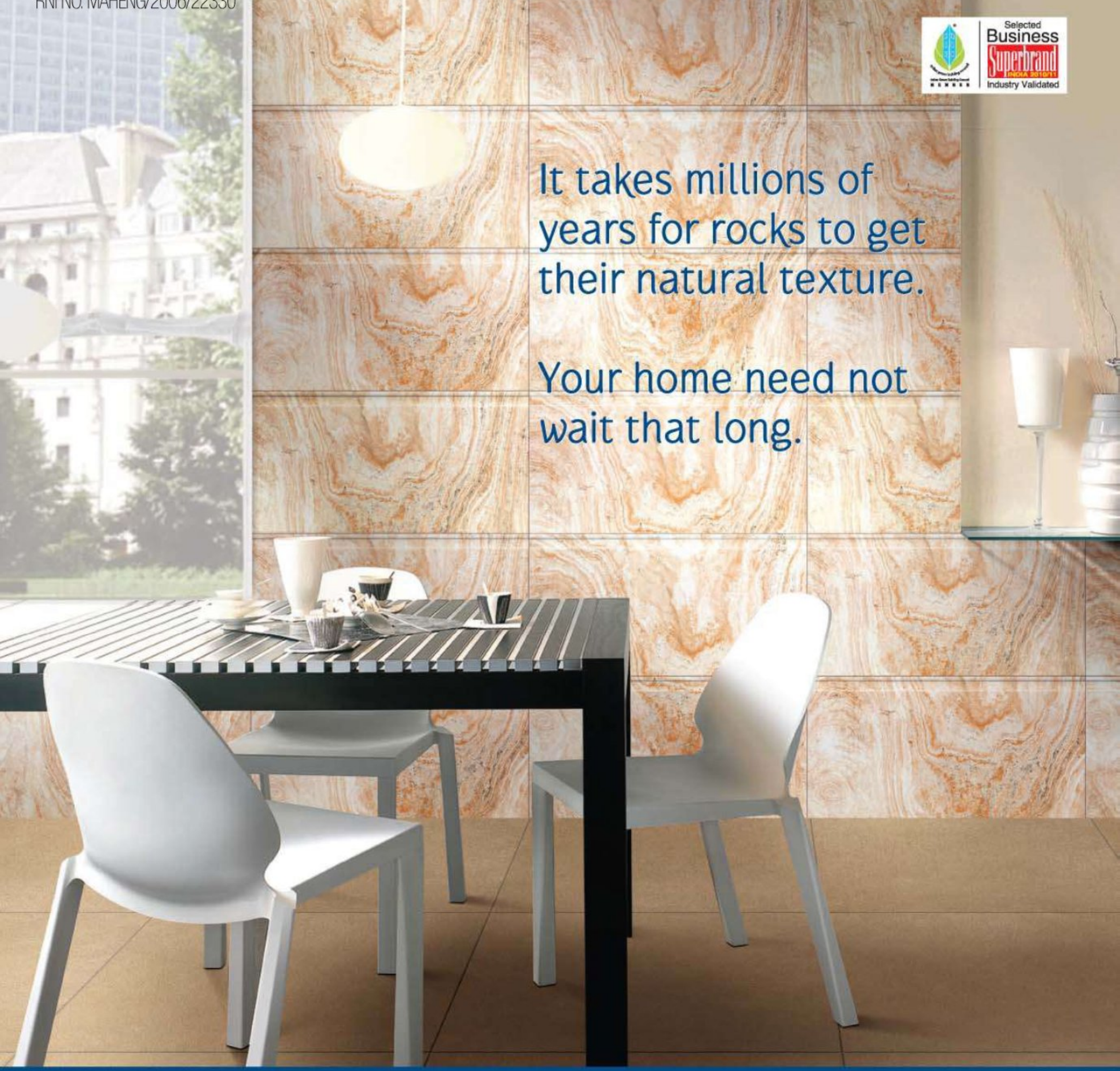

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