

FREE! 12-PAGE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT ON POLYWOOD, AN ECO-FRIENDLY WOOD SUBSTITUTE

VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 11

MARCH 2008 • Rs 50

www.betterinteriors.in

Better Interiors

IDEAS AND DESIGN FOR BETTER LIVING



GO SHOPPING

FOLIAGE PRINTS
BOTTLE-OPENERS
LOVE-SEATS

[DO IT YOURSELF]

CUES TO
maintaining wall paint

DESIGN OVERHAUL
Mediterranean style

CHIC OPULENCE

AT F-BAR & KITCHEN
BY STUDIO US DESIGN

COLOUR TRENDS 2008
BY ASIAN PAINTS

Featuring: 100 Watts Design Studio, Anil Salian Associates, Anu Khatwani, DSA-GSA Architects, Nikhil Verma Design, PFA Design Firm, Prasad Badle Architects, Shital Deliwala Kothari, The Ashleys, The Busride, VDGA & Zyeta Designs

Practical charm

TEXT: TRACY BARRETO | PHOTOGRAPHS: SANJAY RAMCHANDRAN

Anu Khatwani of A&More, makes accessories the focus of her holiday villa in Goa.

Homes are an extension of the people who dwell in them. Simple people don't own lavishly embellished houses, and the flamboyant ones will never claim something bland. Home-owners leave traces of their unique character all over a space. Anu Khatwani's villa in Calangute, Goa, is no exception. The holiday home is a reflection of her temperament and her unique peeves and preferences — her passion for travel, her love to entertain, her favourite motifs: flowers and butterflies...

Anu runs a successful business in interiors and retails from her store, A&More. Being in the business of improving spaces, Anu has designed all her holiday homes as well as her five-storey home in Mumbai. Having done it so often, she has designing and furnishing down to a meticulous routine, one that translates into a job well done with uncommon speed.

The actual work of getting the villa on its feet took just four days. As Anu explains, "The workers and carpenters were all my regular guys from Mumbai. We dispatched all the material, right from the teaspoons and linen to the furniture and screws, from



▲ Designer
Anu Khatwani



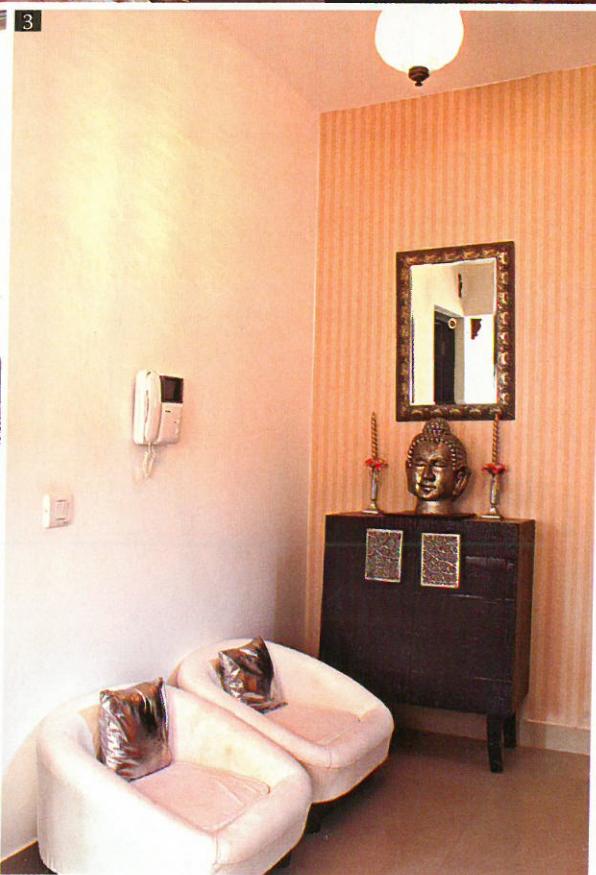
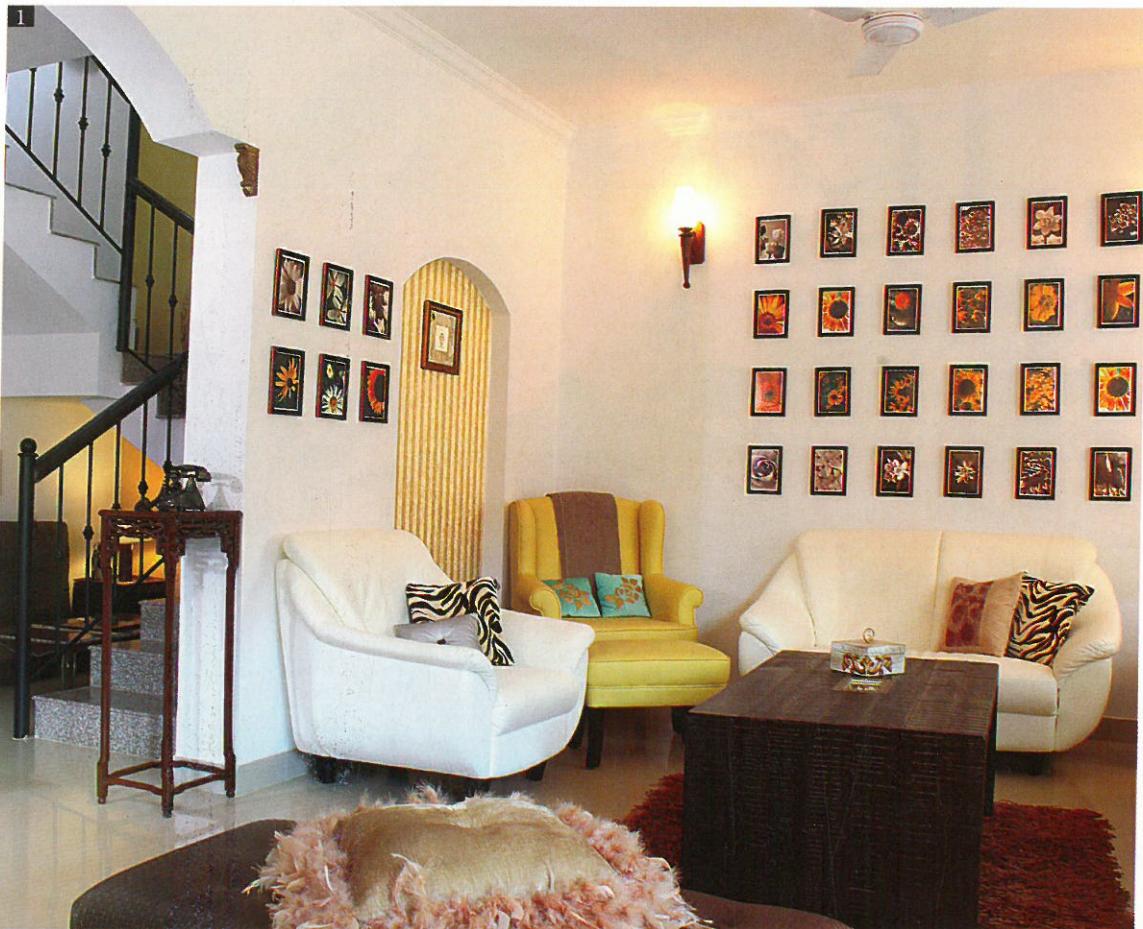


The exterior of the house features substantial moulding work

[1] The 60 pictures of flowers on the wall are the main feature of the living area. The all-encompassing white renders it a roomy air, with yellow, black and earthy accents to give it a bohemian appeal

[2] The dining room and kitchen are attached for convenient and efficient service. The dining room is embellished with classic vintage elements, while the kitchen is kept modern

[3] This cosy corner is injected with character via a striped wall; unique pieces of furniture; silver candlestands; and silver cushions to add just the right amount of glam



The independent themes of each room are threaded together through the use of a muted colour palette and a straightforward method of design

[4] Pictures of flowers are decorating attributes that repeat all through the house. In this case, a carefully selected piece of ornate furniture completes the decorative statement



4

[5] The yellow wall of the staircase landing makes for a forceful backdrop for Anu's picture frames



5

[6] The master bedroom is decorated in a muted shade of blue, a favourite colour. The two-poster bed is the highlight and lends an elegant touch to the room

Mumbai to Goa. Only the roller blinds, light fittings and a couple of odd pieces of furniture were locally obtained." This helped save time as stores in Goa are far apart.

The three-bedroom villa features a separate dining room, two baths, a powder bathroom, lobby landings at each level, a walk-in closet, a utility room, a lawn that runs around the property, and balconies. The independent themes of each room are threaded together through the use of a muted colour palette and a straightforward method of design. A dash of yellow brings a bohemian touch to the living room's contemporary, Mediterranean-white look. Anu wanted a yellow villa, a popular colour for houses in Goa. Since there

wasn't one available, she chose a red house. Being part of a complex, she didn't have the option of repainting it. To compensate, she incorporated yellow wherever possible within the house. The dining room is classic with its wall mirrors and a modern dining set. It is attached to the simple, well-equipped kitchen.

In the kids' room upstairs, beautiful hand-painted flowers on the wall are interspersed with three-dimensional butterflies that bring the pink space to life. The master bedroom, done up in Anu's favourite shade of blue, is a classic European style with the typical two-poster bed in dark solid teak. The kids' bathroom is done with a cartoon

[conceptmaterials]

>CONCEPT

The Khatwanis wanted a holiday home in their favoured locale that was perfect for all members of the family. Furthermore, they wanted it to feel lived in and not merely functional. To achieve this, Anu accessorized liberally but carefully to ensure the presence of all necessary amenities to enhance comfort.

>MATERIALS

Flooring	Vitrified tiles. Bathroom borders were handmade
Walls	Some internal walls were highlighted through the use of colour. The external walls were waterproofed and treated using high-quality products as it has to withstand heavy rains
Windows	All white and PVC, therefore strong and durable with sliding mosquito nets on the inside and white roller blinds in front for a smart look
Doors	The internal doors are all fibre particle board, polished in rosewood
Soft furnishings	Follow the colour theme in each area; all living room sofas are white composite leather



6



[7] The guest bedroom is done in a more sombre shade of pink. The linen and the overall outlook suggest more mature occupants. Pictures organized in rows are an easy way to evoke a homey feeling, while filling up a bare wall

[8] The kids' bedroom is a clean girly pink with Anu's favoured motifs: the wall-painted flowers and three dimensional butterflies



theme, in shades of sea-green and yellow; the other in shades of pale blue with the all-essential bathtub.

Anu is a big believer in accessorization. "Some of the accessories are from overseas," she informs, "but nothing that's specially bought for this home. Largely, whatever was collected over the years in our Mumbai home was just carried here." Besides some family photographs and pictures, items of sentimental value were kept to the minimum, given the varied residents (extended family and friends) that would be using the home.

In order to steer clear of over-accessorization, Anu follows a few thumbrules. "Keep it simple; start with a basic plan; whites are lovely for living areas and also easier to decorate; avoid fixed furniture," she suggests. Anu also advises that global themes are better as it's easier to find complementing furniture and accessories. "Avoid too much detailing such as carved furniture; it's difficult to clean. Accessorize liberally as it adds character. And lastly, provide all required amenities and complete all fittings," she reveals.

For the outdoor areas, Anu opted for uninterrupted green lawns accentuated with plants, rather than a structured, tersely-paved backyard. Essential garden furniture coupled with picturesque marble statuettes and pots makes for a charming setting for chirpy outdoor breakfasts and romantic cocktails and dinners. "Unless you want to be surrounded by the buzz of people by the beach, this is the place to unwind!" exclaims Anu.

Ideas to enhance the space came in from all quarters. Anu explains, "My husband, always ready with a suggestion or two, brainstormed with me till I was satisfied with the plan. My sister, too, pitched in. The hand-painted pink flowers in the kids' room were the result of her inputs." The outcome, naturally, is a warm, efficient space for the whole family to get away to every now and then.

The style of the villa is more fusion, with elements of the classic and contemporary thrown in to influence a healthy mix-n-match. Unlike other holiday homes, this is a warm and perfectly functional living space. From the minute you walk in, there are little touches that make the space feel 'lived in'. Every detail has been thought of, every ornament is where it should be and there are no gaps left to fill. The result... a home away from home [®]

[factfile]

Area	1,800 sq ft (plus 2,800 sq ft lawns)
Interior designer	Anu Khatwani
Duration of project	Four days
Date of completion	December 2006