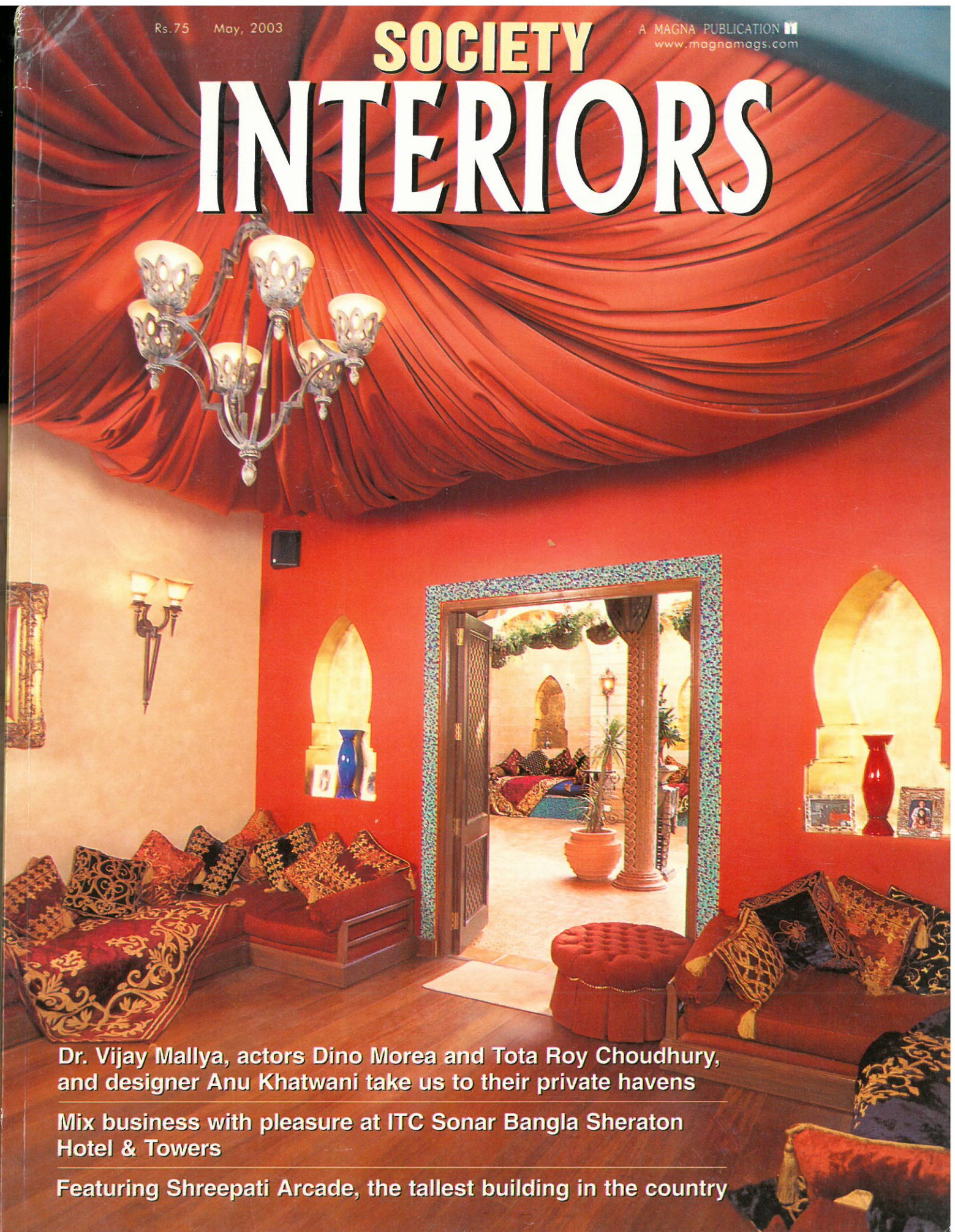


Rs.75 May, 2003

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INTERIORS



Dr. Vijay Mallya, actors Dino Morea and Tota Roy Choudhury, and designer Anu Khatwani take us to their private havens

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(above) A picture-perfect living area. Lamps, beautiful pieces of furniture, photoframes, crystals, paintings and a marble statue showcase an eclectic fusion. (left) An elaborate window dressing complements the easy chair. The top of the coffee table is made out of glass mounted in a photo frame. (right) An assortment of wall-mounted frames provide an interesting backdrop to the wooden dining table and its stately chairs.



AN ECLECTIC JUXTAPOSITION

Creating beautiful spaces is not a prerogative of professionally-trained people alone.

Witness a fine example in ANU KHATWANI's pretty apartment in Mumbai.



Anu Khatwani: inborn talent and an eye for beauty.

FEW people have the aesthetic vision to transform ordinary things into something extraordinary. Anu Khatwani, a fashion and furniture designer (her furniture brands Anu Creations and A & More can be found in many hi-profile lifestyle stores in Mumbai) belongs to this rare breed. The tastefully done-up 2,000 sq. ft. apartment in suburban Mumbai, home to this creative individual, her businessman husband Tarun and their one-year-old daughter Kenisha, stands testimony to her remarkable gifts.

A flight of stairs leads you to the landing with Italian marble flooring whose immaculate whiteness is punctuated by mother-of-pearl inlay.

The U-shaped all-wood kitchen has a bright and cheerful ambience.

Softly illuminated niches in the wall hold small artefacts in carved wooden frames. The landing bifurcates into three areas: the living cum dining, the kitchen and Kenisha's bedroom and play area. "I wanted to create an atmosphere that was light and airy yet cosy and intimate," says the lady about her home. "The style is a mix between Oriental and Classic and accommodates artefacts that we have collected

during our frequent trips abroad."

Awash with light from the large elaborately-dressed picture windows, the large living cum dining area is an aesthetic blend of different elements: beautiful furniture, photoframes, crystals, carpets, crystal chandeliers, lamps, a grandfather clock, paintings, a marble statue from Rome and white-metal artefacts come together to create a setting that is distinctly elegant. "Instead of a wall unit with neatly arranged showpieces, I preferred to create groupings of collectibles and display them in corners and on walls," Anu explains. This has resulted in a heterogeneous medley, which bestows a flavoursome personalized charm to the space, something that is missing in oh-so-proper and 'professionally' done-up spaces.

Anu's passion for tassels is evident in their extensive use throughout the house. "Tassels have their own beauty. I have used them on curtains, on throws and even on frames," she reveals. The extended windowsill makes for casual seating along one side, augmented by an oversized and eminently comfortable chair. Another comfy-looking three-seater sofa, a set of single seaters and a couch make up the semi-formal seating.

Opposite the line of windows is the dining area with a large wooden dining table complemented by regal-looking chairs. Frames on one of the walls, a bar trolley and a console table that holds a fraction of Anu's treasures, make for an interesting corner.

The U-shaped kitchen has an all-wood decor. Keeping functionality in mind, it is divided into three distinct sections: the utility, cooking and washing. To add a bit of cheer to the everyday routine of cooking, Anu has dressed the window with gay sheers and added a colourful floral arrangement. Use of wallpaper and pictures of vegetables and fruits lend light dimensions to the ambience,





while pull-out trolleys and drawers take care of storage.

Clean lines best define the master bedroom, which has a pronounced English touch and is accessorized by knick-knacks from London. An interesting feature here is the way blue and beige have been incorporated in the soft furnishings, making enormous difference to the entire decor. "These little personalized touches make a whole lot of difference," says the creative lady, indicating an English portrait behind the bed and artefacts on the side tables. One of the corners near the window forms the study area, where the ledge functions as casual seating again.

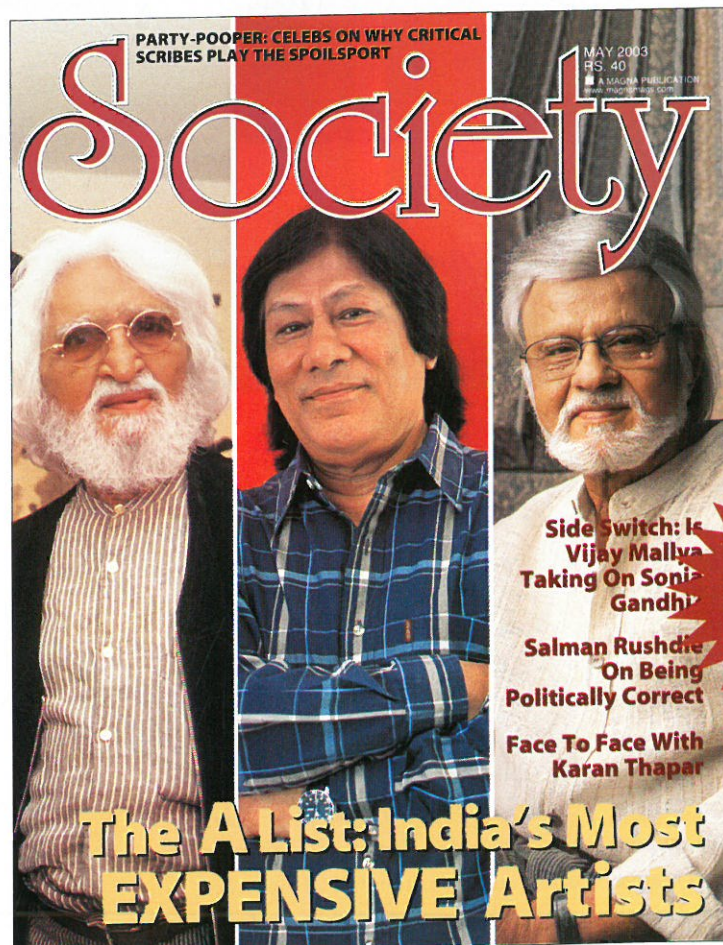
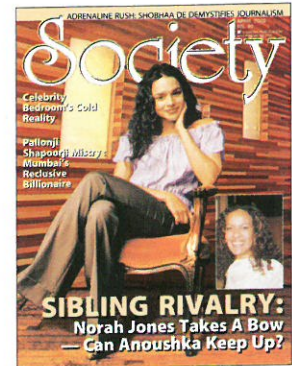
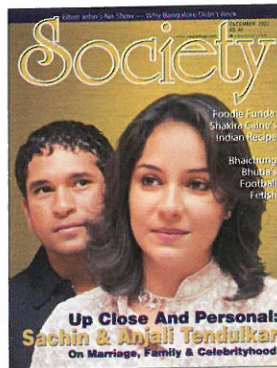
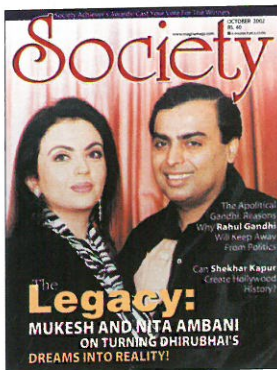
Anu has deliberately made the master bathroom one of the most interesting areas in the house. "My husband spends a lot of time here," she laughs. A

soothing colour scheme dominates this space — which is made up of the bathing area, the toilet area and the walk-in wardrobe. Textured walls, peach wallpaper and a lot of paraphernalia make this a bathroom with a difference. Rather than having a separate dressing section, Anu has created a small cabinet for toiletries and cosmetics in the bathroom itself. The basin is mounted on a wooden platform with storage underneath to maintain a tidy look.

One-year-old Kenisha's bedroom in blue and bright yellow is a cuddly little world with embroidered denim curtains and stuffed toys placed all around, creating a very playful ambience. Already preparing for the future, Anu has created a study area for her with a table and wall unit in natural wood with matte-finished handles. Sunflowers, chimes

(above, left) The master bedroom sports distinct English overtones. A touch of blue and beige adds to the soothing effect. (above, right) Like the rest of the house, the master bathroom is also well-decorated. The washbasin is mounted on a wooden table with storage underneath.

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and small fish form an interesting corner. The bathroom follows an aquatic theme with fish on the walls, shower curtains and even accessories. A niche holds a few ceramic accessories, complementing the alphabets, numbers, fruits, etc. stuck on the tiles. A line of louvered cupboards takes care of the storage.

The bedroom opens into a terrace cum play area where furniture sporting a comfortable, weather-beaten look and a faux fireplace create a relaxed atmosphere.

What makes Anu and Tarun's home special is the weaving together of different styles and decor elements sans a feeling of confusion. It is an extension of Anu's personality: warm, exuberant and attractive. ■

(above) Kenisha's cheerful world. Embroidered denim curtains and cuddly stuffed toys introduce a host of playful nuances. (left) The play cum terrace area has faux fireplace and niches.