



# URBAN OASIS

A spacious home in the heart of Mumbai, is transformed into an open-to-nature abode by Deshna Kasliwal

WORDS BY VARUNI MOHAN PHOTOS BY SULEIMAN MERCHANT AND YADNYESH JOSHI

Featuring modern Danish furniture, the living room is anchored by a set of custom, deep blue sofas and centre table, both from BoConcept. In the background we see a multifunctional storage and display unit with décor elements from Claymen, Golden Triangle and Home Artisan, and draped on the floor, a minimal rug from Cocoon Fine Rugs completes the look





The versatile six-seater dining table from BoConcept, seamlessly extends into an eight-seater, with enough room for everyone. Hung on the patterned veneer ceiling, is a custom designed Hatsu chandelier, complimented by a bone inlay console from Sarita Handa.

**E**asy access to nature is the ultimate luxury and more so if you're living an urban metropolis like Mumbai. When the Raos wanted a re-design of their home, they roped in Deshna Kasliwal to infuse a fresh energy into two of the main floors, of their four storey home. Deshna re-incarnated 1850 sq ft of space into a welcoming sanctuary and tells us, "The inspiration for the design came from the location itself...is a tropical oasis in the middle of a bustling city and was begging for a transformation. The family of four are very welcoming and needed a space to host their ever growing social circle. This translated into us transforming the previously defunct backyard, into a stunning patio. I enjoyed designing the outdoor patio, as it's very rare to have a backyard in the heart of the city in Bombay. I knew I was working on something unique and focused on making sure it's a space the clients would love." The Raos concur and say, "The outdoor space is definitely our favourite part! We're glad to be finally using the area the way it should be. To be able to unwind in the midst of such greenery is a real luxury that we cherish."

The patio is accessed directly from the dining area, for better

circulation and connectivity. All windows were converted to French windows, allowing nature to be part of the house and this also created pockets of smaller zones-each with its own ambience. The architectural interventions were helmed by Deshna's father Amol Kasliwal of Sajja Interiors. Staying true to crafted luxury, most elements in the house are custom made-including the Bo Concept sofas from Denmark, the pendant light above the dining table from Hatsu and the monochrome wallpaper in the lounge that's designed by Kalakaari Haath. "The idea was to create something that was fresh, yet stand the test of time. The material and colour palette is inspired by the outdoors, with a range of marble, stone, wood and wood veneers. It was a collaborative exercise where the clients trusted me and decisions were unanimously made, together." explains Deshna.

The home is inviting and has an enveloping flavour of effortless chic. The Raos sum up, "Coming home after a long day to a house enveloped by tall green palms, is immediately calming. We enjoy winding down with a good movie in the adjoining entertainment room that doubles as a guest room. Additionally, our kitchen, spacious and now fully equipped with nifty appliances, is now a place we can enjoy cooking for the people we love." ♦

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A monochrome vignette in this bedroom features a bed from Red Blue Yellow, bedding from NoMAD 97, décor element from Sarita Handa and the wall has framed artwork made by the client



The guest bedroom cum lounge, features a mustard BoConcept sofa cum bed and the room is equipped with state-of-the-art speakers from Paradigm USA. The grey herringbone wooden flooring is styled with a rug from Jaipur Rugs' rug, custom made Kalakaari Haath wallpaper and blinds from The Pure Concept complete the monochromatic look of the lounge



The open to sky, private patio has lush and verdant landscaping, with outdoor furniture from Abaca and flooring from Symphony International Wooden Floorings



The guest bathroom has a minimal aesthetic with a soothing green wall tile, offset by taupe coloured sanitary ware and striking matte black fittings, both by Vitra

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