

# Décor that Wows

WANT TO GIVE YOUR HOUSE A MAKEOVER THIS YEAR? BRING OUT YOUR BRIGHTEST CUSHIONS, POLISH THOSE ANTIQUE PIECES, HANG UP YOUR STEEL THREAD CURTAINS AND PULL OUT THOSE VIBRANT RUGS. SIMPLY MUMBAI BRINGS YOU THE LATEST TRENDS IN HOME DÉCOR FOR THE SEASON.

LIVING ROOM

## Bold and beautiful

Today, home design is more about tailoring a space which reflects your personality, giving it your distinct stamp. Designers are working towards bringing balance, peace, rebuilding and stabilising through design in 2012.

Furniture will look softer and will be rid of sharp angles. Creative freedom will be used to experiment with the use of bright and dark surfaces mixing exotic, traditional and luxurious materials. "The idea is to celebrate the owner's personality along with offering comfort and creating peaceful, personalised living spaces," says Kanika Bawa, design director at Tattvam.

According to Shahnaz Mahimtura, interior designer and proprietor at L'Vista, "Colours like champagne, ivory and light taupe, reinforced by energetic shades of ebony and night blue give the room a sophisticated and elegant look."

If you are looking for more modern options, 3D wallpapers are a great way to highlight a wall and give it depth and character. "A 3D effect is a strong trend for the living space. This can also be done by sculpting the wall surfaces, scooping the wall or even adding to the wall. Use of decals or wall tattoos will continue to be popular," explains Bawa.

Mitali Bajaj, director of Dr Art + Design advocates space saving multipurpose furniture like sofas with pull-out beds and storage spaces which are ideal in the living room. To enhance and add to the theme of the room, use fabric coordinates.

From intricately embroidered weaves to bold floral prints, the perfect juxtaposition of art and utility is something that everyone looks for in upholstery. "A touch of class can be added to upholstery by embedding small crystals onto a velvet fabric which can be used as covers for seats and chairs. Strips of silk fabric can also be used to brighten up the space," says Mahimtura.

## Tips 'n' Tricks

- \* Silver leafing, gold foiling and sponging with paints are simple techniques that can dress up walls and furniture.
- \* Don't be afraid to change the positions of things in a room. That may be all that is necessary to create a brand new look.
- \* If comfort is the key factor in your décor scheme, opt for downy, fabric-covered couches and chairs.
- \* If you find a hole in the upholstery, trim the edge lest the loose threads get further ripped.
- \* Natural fibres tend to absorb stains faster, while synthetics can be cleaned easily. You can opt for blended fabrics that give you the best of both.

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## DINING ROOM

### Delightful dinners

Conversations become livelier and smiles broaden when accompanied by heaped plates and refilled glasses; but your dining décor needs to be talked about too.

"The latest trend is to go for fusion designs like combining motifs of Indian art like *Gondh* and *Madhubani* on the wall with European or Moroccan style furniture," explains Bajaj. Flavour it with tableware suited to your taste and it's a recipe for sure success.

With space at a premium, the dining room's layout and table shape becomes important. According to Bawa, fusion tables are quite popular these days. These are tables which can be used for multiple purposes when not used for dining. For example dining tables that turn into billiards tables are available and being used in many homes these days. "Having LED lit tables also adds to the aesthetics of the room," she adds.

If you have a simple dining table with a glass top, opt for table mats that come in a variety of materials ranging from cotton to leather and bamboo. Bring out bright runners with decorative threads to cover up the consoles in the dining area.

Panelling the walls of the dining room with veneer, back painted glass, wall paper or mirrors can add to the décor. "A drop

pendant light can be suspended from the ceiling above the dining table to create a romantic ambience," says Mahimtura.

Storage consoles which are built into the walls can be great space savers. "As space is a constraint in Mumbai, it is wise to use expandable or low height tables with in-built pouffes for seating, which make the space look uncluttered," says Bawa. Placing food warmers on the table to maintain the food's temperature can be a good idea—it will save you many trips to the kitchen when guests are over.

Proximity of the dining room from the kitchen is always practical.



## Tips 'n' Tricks

- \* Make sure there are enough plug points and table surfaces which allow you to play with low-level lighting.
- \* Use reflective

decorative plates instead of placemats for a chic look.

- \* Old photo frames can be repainted and hung

in an interesting arrangement to make for inexpensive wall art.

- \* Dress up your chairs in colours

of your choice—the brighter the better. Keep the table stark by using a black glass top—this will add to the overall impact.

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KITCHEN

## Minimalist wonders

Kitchens today are bold, cosy and the heart of a happy home. They are spaces where you reconnect with family and friends after a long day at work, and can even serve as entertainment zones. Gone are the days when cooking happened behind closed doors. According to Bajaj, colours should be neutral or monochromatic, so that your kitchen looks spacious and easy to work around. The style should be minimalistic, so that it's easy to clean domestic gizmos like the stove, chimney, hob, microwave, dishwasher, water purifier or garbage crusher.

In a city like Mumbai, your kitchen gadgets need protection from rust, algae and bacteria. Bajaj also says that open kitchens overlooking the living or dining rooms are gaining popularity in Mumbai homes. "If you go for this style of kitchen, you can set up a fancy bar with veneer finish wooden table and stools," she explains.

A lot of Mumbaikars these days are going for modular kitchens because they are easy to maintain and last for at least five years.

Ghag recommends going for white-oak or white-ash finish for the walls and using lac painted glass on one wall for a glossy look. In entertainment-cum-cooking rooms, a primary sink and a preparation sink give you multiple locations to access water.

So plan ahead and enjoy the benefits of a warm kitchen that becomes the nerve centre of your home.



BATHROOM

## Tips 'n' Tricks

- \* Use anti skid patches in the bathtub and other wet areas, and floor mats with suction mats to prevent slippery surfaces.
- \* Place flower stems in the bathroom with burning incense—the fragrance will add a wonderful feel to your space.
- \* Install grab bars in the shower/tub areas, toilet area and near the sink.
- \* Consider using handles for doors and fixtures instead of round knobs—these are tough to grasp when your hand is wet.

## Luxury meets utility

The bathroom is one of the most intimate spaces in the household. The décor here needs to be in sync with your personal sensibilities and the design trends need to suit your taste.

Encrusting your washroom with precious jewels is a design idea that is in vogue now. A whole host of jewels and stones such as Swarovski crystals, artistic mosaics, precious metal and semi-precious stones are now a staple part of the luxury washroom repertoire. However, according to Ghag, most home owners prefer to set up luxury adornments in guest washrooms or their weekend homes.

Most Mumbaikars prefer their bathrooms to be simple yet effective and prefer set-ups that can be maintained with minimum hassle. Aesthetic appeal is not completely disregarded, but is weaved into this efficient set-up.

"Italian tiles and marble which are also available in 3D style designs are a hot favorite these days," explains Ghag.



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