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ELLE DECOR brings you in-depth articles and insights into design, architecture, decor and culture. Introducing our special contributors



SAMIIR WHEATON

FOUNDER
WHEATON DESIGN

Samiir Wheaton, born to Jaya Wheaton (a professional painter) has lived amidst design, sculpture and art since time immemorial. He graduated from the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad in 1994 and founded Wheaton Design in 1995 with Bhawna Wheaton, an architectural, interior and furniture design practice.

On my bucket list... To sculpt life-size figures like Auguste Rodin

My living room essentials... Music, more music and coffee

Design to me is... All about energy and sensory

I'm currently reading... The Sky Below by Scott E Parazynski

A historical place I'd like to visit... Angkor Wat

In this issue, he engineers a colossal second home located within New Delhi in Quiet Getaway, Pg 146



SHABNAM GUPTA

PRINCIPAL DESIGNER AND FOUNDER
THE ORANGE LANE AND PEACOCK LIFE

A designer by profession, a thinker by habit and an inventor by choice, Shabnam believes in finding the extraordinary in the ordinary. She and her team have been instrumental in revolutionising interior design in India with their charming and endearing spaces. Their phenomenal vision has culminated into not just national but international recognition.

On my bucket list... Sledging with the huskies in Rovaniemi, Finland

My living room essentials... Great art and comfy sofas

Design to me is... Like breathing

What am I currently reading... The Fabric of Our Lives: The Story of Fabindia by Radhika Singh

A historical place I'd like to visit... Taksang Monastery

In this issue, she crafts a global yet India-inspired home in Mumbai with Modern Roots, Pg 158



KETA AND VARUN SHAH

FOUNDING PARTNERS
WORKSHOP INC

Keta and Varun Shah, graduates from CEPT University, Ahmedabad, are founding partners at Workshop Inc, a design practice operating within the fields of architecture, interior design and exhibition design. The practice takes a holistic and researched-based approach to spatial design and focuses on seeking out narratives behind each project.

On our bucket list... Travel to the Balkans to see Spomeniks

Our living room essentials... A nice, warm throw to snuggle into

Design to us is... Addictive

What we're currently reading... Press Here by Herve Tullet with my daughter

A historical place we'd like to visit... Samarkand

In this issue, they take us to a tranquil home right in the middle of the busy urban city of Ahmedabad, Pg 168

MODERN ROOTS

India's reigning interior designer Shabnam Gupta weaves a design story in Mumbai that defines the home style of a globetrotting Indian – a wonderful melody of global influences grounded by Indian crafts and aesthetics

TEXT BY **ADITI SHARMA MAHESHWARI** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **KUBER SHAH**



The stairwell is a vignette of carefully chosen pieces like the round table, framed Suzani and tabletop decor, all from Peacock Life, while the hanging light is from The Hesperus Store and the red trunk is procured from Nappa Dori. The wallpaper under the stairs is from Elemento Wallpaper and the lovely brass decor is a Good Earth find. The earthen pot is from Gaia Pottery



In the lift lobby, the wall art print is from Calcuttan Art Gallery, art frame from Indu Frame and the low-hanging chandelier is from The Hesperus Store. The candle stands are sourced from Pottery Barn while the console and chair are from Peacock Life. The flooring is Stonex



The open plan living and dining room is drenched in muted tones, with curtains and sculptures defining scale and the home's organic materiality. The soft furnishings are from Shades of India. The dining table along with the ceiling light is from Peacock Life, while the light above the table is from Beyond Design. In the centre of the living and dining room is a large sculpture from Purple Turtles. The mirror, mirror lights and wooden candle stands are from Peacock Life, and the brass pedestal is from Natural Interio Stonesworld. In the main living room, the sofa, artefacts above the console, coffee table and the tabletop decor, all are from Peacock Life. The rug is from Jaipur Rugs



Everything Shabnam Gupta touches becomes an exemplary standard; a ready reckoner of how to mix worlds, traditions and crafts, to produce something that is timeless, rooted in strong concepts and endlessly charming. Many celebrity homes and plush residences have been moulded by her astute skills yet each feels like a haven, that are extremely real, warm and easy to live in. This 7,700 sq ft, four bedroom duplex in Mumbai is one such example; a home endowed with views of the Arabian Sea, paired with Shabnam's magic touch. While the husband and wife reside here, their two daughters visit often.

SHARED DREAMS

"The client was familiar with my retail store, Peacock Life, and had previously purchased many products from us. During our meeting, while it was a pleasure to see how easily our styles and aesthetics matched, it was only when I finally started working with them, is when I realised, firstly, the incredible scale of this project, and how it was such a boon to work with people whose design sensibilities are aligned with mine," says Shabnam, the creative force behind The Orange Lane, and the founder of Peacock Life. "It also helped that the husband worked to build several brands in the country, so had a great creative eye, and a spirit to be experimental," she adds. The duo wished for a home that not only portrayed their globetrotting lifestyle but also provided a feeling of pause; an interior drenched in Indian pride yet with an international appeal. "And, they wished for a tinge of eccentricity," explains Shabnam. >>



The open bar has veneer walls with wooden beams, incorporated in a quintessential British style. The Tanjore painting, bar chair along with the tabletop light are all from Peacock Life. The flooring is CMC Marble and the art print is from Calcuttan Art Gallery FACING PAGE FROM LEFT In the dining area, the dining table and chairs, the metal horse sculpture along with the tabletop decor are all from Peacock Life. The table light is from The Hesperus Store, while the upholstery is from Shades of India; The bar cabinet is made on site while the flooring is CMC Marble. The console artefacts are from Peacock Life

The den washroom is a picture of artistry. The wall-mounted faucet and the basin are from Gessi at FCML. The mirror is custom made by Peacock Life, while the embossed wall marble is from Natural Interio Stonesworld. The wall mounted faucet and the wash basin is from Gessi. The water closet is from Devon & Devon while the flooring is from Stonex



The curtains and upholstery are from Shades of India while the bed and the bedside table are from Peacock Life. The bedside wall lamp is from The Hesperus Store. The art print has been sourced from Calcuttan Art Gallery while the art frames are from Indu Frame

"The duo wished for a home that not only portrayed their globetrotting lifestyle but also provided a feeling of pause; an interior drenched in Indian pride yet with an global appeal"



FROM LEFT The powder washroom has a hanging light and mirror from Peacock Life, while the wall has Thikri work on it. The under counter wash basin is from Kohler while the rug is sourced from Ikka Dukka. The wall art is from Peacock Life. The plants are the client's own; The washroom showcases panelling work in its finest. The mirror and hanging lights are custom made from Peacock Life, while the glass vase is from IKEA. The tray is from Pottery Barn and the candle holder is from West Elm FACING PAGE The study is wrapped in veneer panelled walls disrupted by the wooden ceiling that sits above the leather study table. Wooden blinds have been added to continue the interface with the outdoors. The black and white art print is from Calcuttan Art Gallery while the study chair and study table are from Chisel Arts. The decor pieces are from Mora Tara, Oma and House of Things

LOOK UP AND AROUND

Scale, immense detailing, and eye to detail define the interiors. The home's entrance with the Garuda sets the tone for what's inside – drama, intrigue and fine craftsmanship. The lobby was designed with a keen eye too. "Since this is a transitional space, we decided to add a little more brooding quality to it with the chequered tiles and the low hanging chandelier. It gives the space an ethereal feeling," says Shabnam.

There's a lot of embellishment in the house with the contribution of craftspeople and specially sourced pieces from across the country. "One of the powder bathrooms is completely in charcoal paint with Thikri work from Rajasthan, done in a non-traditional way. We envisioned the space like a black night sky with twinkling stars. The other bathroom is made in thick, carved marble slabs with the idea of a lotus body" mentions Shabnam. Several other areas in the home, be it the bar with the wooden ceiling, the Godfather-like study with leather furniture and veneer panelled walls, to the individualistic bedrooms showcasing each member's unique tastes makes the home a keen design study in melding aesthetics within a unifying theme.

A microcosm of Indian crafts reinterpreted in modern forms, bespoke pieces, special sculptures sourced countrywide and English tones give the home an everlasting visual semblance. Tranquil yet trendsetting, welcome to India modern. ♦