

MY SPACE : DHARMESH JADEJA

VD&C UNCOVERED

DESIGN DESTINATION : LISBON

HOME REVIEW

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CLASS CONSCIOUS
BY ROOSHAD SHROFF

RAKESH JESWAANI'S
BESPOKE ELEGANCE

THE OLD AND THE NEW

RAJIV SAINI'S CONTEMPORARY AESTHETIC IN LONDON

MAISON & OBJET NOVELTIES PAR EXCELLENCE IN THE HOME DECOR SPACE



Photo: Cyrus Dada

R

ajiv Saini recasts an aging London home into one with a dassy contemporary elegance. Rejigging the floor plan, he reinvents the interiors with a blend of natural light, bespoke pieces of furniture and a muted colour palate that together breathe new life into the residence.

Rajiv's reworked spatial plan infuses a sense of inter-connectedness opening up volumes to interaction and dialogue. His clever manipulations allow for an added sense of space, while his uber sense of aesthetics creates a sophisticated dwelling that is sure to be a topic of conversation for many in Notting Hill.

Rakeshh Jeswaani revels in exploring traditional craft, though interpreted in a contemporary idiom - a sprawling home in Indore designed by him is rooted in this ideology. Here Rakeshh experiments with 'tekri' mirror work from Udaipur, wooden pieces from Bali, stone carvings, mother of pearl inlays and other handicraft - expertly managing to stitch together these varied influences into a unified narrative. His work aims to meld tradition with modernity, while also showcasing his penchant for creativity and a love for painstaking customisation.

Rooshad Shroff too is a strong proponent of personalised creations. An unthinkable timeline of six weeks and a target to infuse some real character into a residential 'show' flat, had Rooshad pulling out all the stops. His team worked with teak wood (their material of choice), custom designing and hand making almost all the interior elements using skilled craftsmen from across India. The end result is a deceptively simple setting, a sublime interior with thoughtfully created elements that invite you to take a closer look as well as marvel at the genius of its talented designer.

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CLASS CONSCIOUS

This 3BHK flat at Oberoi Exquisite in Mumbai has been designed by Rooshad Shroff and team as an elegant expanse peppered with customised handcrafted furniture and innovative 3D-textured surfaces.

The almost-resplendent calm of this 3BHK show flat belies the frenzied rush that informed its design and execution. "Logistical nightmare" are the words that Mumbai-based designer Rooshad Shroff repeats while describing the 45-day whirlwind of activity that preceded the realisation of this 1200 sq ft of the sublime at Oberoi Exquisite, Goregaon.

Working on a threadbare brief provided by the client, Oberoi Realty, Shroff and his team decided to infuse the project with a distinct character, in spite of the cramped deadline and the Diwali timing. "The show flat was an opportunity for us to have a residential interior where every aspect of the apartment could be custom designed and manufactured by the office using local craftsmen from around India," states Shroff.

Text By Shruti Nambiar
Photographs Courtesy The Designer



The most eye-catching of these design aspects in the flat are the 3-dimensional textures. **This starts with the main door, whose wooden surface is a delightful series of small squares that have imploded at the centre, with their edges opening up and jutting out slightly in the middle.** This pattern repeats itself throughout the flat, setting up an interesting visual reference point for the viewers of the show flat.

It also serves as a creative spur of whimsy in the mostly sedate segments of the house. Look for the gold-bordered 3-D textured wall made of marble that at the same time complements and breaks-away from the ethereal white and dim-blue tones of the living room.

This effect comes together beautifully in the master bedroom, where the bed headboard and the wardrobe doors are clad in similar patterns realised in grey-ish leather. Some of the eye catchers in this room include the overhead lamps, that resemble luminescent crumpled paper balls. Or the bedside-table installation that is a larger-than-life, slightly well-fed replica of the classic Edison's bulb.

Another distinguishing aesthetic quality of the rooms is the play of light and shadow, a factor that was deliberately allowed to cultivate by the team as a cause and complement to the varied textures. Adding to the sublime aura of the interiors are the glass and polished surfaces, including the stone flooring and the brass hangings.





The French windows, sheathed in slender curtains or blinds, let in an acreage of sunlight, which then proceeds to light up all the smooth and textured surfaces.

The furniture pieces are extensions of Shroff and his team's personal commitment to researching on handicrafts. This has resulted in interesting wooden dining chairs with semi-circular and wavy backs.

But the strongest evidence of innovation is in the living room. **Solid Burma teak wood is the preferred choice of material here, and it has been transformed into unconventional, angular chairs with flat seats and arms that stand out like pincers. The centre table is not even a table but rather a collection of smaller flat-topped stands, which look more like an art installation than a drab utilitarian piece. These are well-contrasted by hand-embroidered cushions.** Even the duvets in the bedrooms have been specifically crafted to create themes in the rooms.

This flat at the Oberoi Exquisite may seem deceptively simple on the surface, but it is actually composed of carefully thought-out design elements. The visual humility of the space probably works to its advantage, as unlike putting up an in-the-face show for the visitors, it invites all to explore and infer the various design elements for themselves.

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