

MOOD

Photography / Vibhor Yadav & Conarch Architects * Words / Nandini Banerjee

INDIGO



FORMAL LIVING AREA

The living room is all about the amalgamation of dark, rich tones and swanky, custom made pieces. The palette of blue, tan leather, grey and black is striking and sophisticated.

Get the look The furniture has been bought from Casa Louvre, China (louvre-casa.com). This is a Nomon wall clock, available at S. T. Unicom. Find similar floor lamps at Lightbox and cushions at The Pillow Company.



A generous smattering of unusual colours transform two high-rise apartments into an impressive multi-level penthouse...

HOME PROFILE

THE OWNERS The family with teenagers use this home as a resting and entertainment place during their frequent visits to the city. **THE PROPERTY** The multi-level penthouse has 8,000 sq ft of indoor area and 6,000 sq feet of outdoor space, spread across three levels. One level has a master suite, private workspace, a guest bedroom and a sit out area, while the second level houses a massive indoor & outdoor living area, a kitchen and three bedrooms.



HOME OFFICE ← LOBBY

'We both love art that errs towards colour,' says Helene. Here, abstract shapes add dynamism to the classically cool dining table.

Get the look These are Fenesta UPVC windows. The pendant light is from Summer.

STAIRCASE →

The focal point of the living area is the cantilevered floating solid wood staircase with the artistic fall protection on a Prussian blue backdrop. Created in a simple style that belies its complexity, this protagonist of a staircase is meant to sit lightly to let light and conversations through, emphasising the interconnected relationship between the levels.

Get the look Wall has been painted with Asian Paints emulsion.

furniture, while the Vietnam white marble flooring offers a fabulous backdrop for these hues. Starting with the staircase wall colour in an unexpected Prussian blue; the brown and orange hues in the home office; and the yellow and light blue shades in the daughter's room — all emphasize the relaxed, playful vibes of the holiday home. While, in the bathrooms, the fascinating, natural stone textures take the centrestage. The stone patterns are unique to Italian stones, such as Mont Blanc and Grigio Orobico.

"The master bedroom has an open concept bathroom. Though physically unrestricted, the visual privacy is controlled. We wanted the bathroom design to rise above necessity, and become an oasis for rejuvenation. The bathroom is defined by a custom steel-framed mirror partition, a vanity and a ceiling suspended faucet. The stepped Jacuzzi faces a full-height exterior window, while the glass partition defines the toilet and the shower area, and provides a mist barrier from the adjoining dressing area. This generous space is reminiscent less of a bathroom and more of a finished living space," Nitish says. The Moroccan tiles, paired with natural Mont Blanc stone, add a refreshing crispness to the neutral colour scheme of the master bedroom.

The terrace garden on the top level unfolds into a place for the family to come together. The expansive roof area includes a zen-like corner, vertical landscaping and multiple seating pockets, both shaded and un-shaded. The space serves as an outdoor area for refuge and play, and doubles up as a party area. The unidirectional lighting helps do away with night light pollution and preventing the disorientation of birds at night. The green cover on the roof helps the home to remain cool during the hot summer days by reducing direct heat gain. A variety of trees, flowering plants, a green wall and water feature add interest, contrast and diversity to the terrace garden. In fact, the mix of plants support habitat for all kinds of birds, beneficial insects, bees and butterflies.

Designed as a lively, therapeutic second home for a family frequently visiting the city of Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, Conarch Architects transformed two apartments into a single cohesive, stunning abode, complete with a 'front yard', statement staircase and lavish interiors, all this on a top floor of a high-rise tower!

"This home was an architectural and interior amalgamation of two apartments at the top of a high rise tower into a single unit. Also, we wanted to create a classy home that uplifted the family's health and well being," elaborates Project Lead Ar. Nitish Goel. To connect the two units, an internal staircase was crafted, and that, according to Nitish, was the biggest challenge. "With creative design, innovative construction detailing and precise site execution, it took a collaborative team effort to pull it off successfully." And what a success it was! The showstopper of this home, the floating staircase, is in the form of cantilevered wood steps set against the background of a deep Prussian blue backdrop.

Connecting the two levels internally also had another advantage, in the way of passive ventilation. The staircase opening between the levels acts as a chimney, and helps release hot air from the window openings on the upper floor. In fact, the natural air flow helps restricts the need for mechanical air conditioning to extremely hot days!

To create a biophilic sensorial connection, a stunning double-height outdoor area was

created. Every room is therefore, illuminated with natural light, eliminating the need for artificial lighting throughout the day and thereby, significantly reducing energy loads. "Balancing daylight with overheating is critical for thermal comfort. So, we insulated double glazing on the home's exterior windows. This reduces the solar heat transmission while letting in the light. Deep overhangs of the outdoor terraces shade the home's fenestrations and in the absence of direct incident solar radiation on the glass, the heat gain is minimal," Nitish explains. "We laid out the bedrooms, living areas and even kitchen in such a way that they all have a visual connection to the green outdoor terraces. Some of these areas open directly to these staggered, double height open spaces located at two levels. This link to the outdoors invokes a feeling of a 'front yard', a rarity in high rise setting."

One level houses the master suite, private workspace, a guest bedroom and a sit out area. The second includes a spread out indoor and outdoor living area, a kitchen and three bedrooms. The spatial form of the home emerged from a host of variables, such as the needs of a family with teenage children, structural limitations of the high rise and limited flexibility in relocating plumbing and electrical services. The interiors have a layered neutral palette with dramatic accents that have been used throughout to evoke a warm and tranquil vibe. The pop colours are evident in highlight walls, artifacts, paintings, light fixtures and





↖ INFORMAL LIVING AREA

This neutral toned space invades luxury and adds sophistication. With customised artworks adding character, the sumptuous furniture accents the tone of the seating space. The stark white flooring paired with dark toned walls and pops of rustic orange make this area stunning.

Get the look The flooring is Vietnam white stone by RK Marble. Greenlam veneers adorn the ceiling. Find similar pipe lights at DBEL Studio.

← DINING AREA

The dining area is both luxe and chic. The stylish wooden chairs stand out instantly, coordinating well with the neutral colour of the wall and flooring. The paintings accent the wall to complement the decor.

Get the look The curtain is from D'Decor. Find similar rugs at The Rug Republic. The Hidden Gallery can customise similar dining chairs. Address Home has similar vases.



HOME → OFFICE

Dark toned media cabinet with a hint of burnt orange and the customised ergonomic table act as the focal point of the office space. The white walls and neutral floor act as the perfect canvas for the furniture.

Get the look Curtain is from D'Decor. Furniture is from Casa Louvre.



↓ MASTER BEDROOM SUITE

It is embraced by delicately crafted wall murals, beautifully upholstered headboard, integrated elements and cohesive seating space.

Get the look The bedroom has a Yamaha 7.2 channel with Dolby Atmos sound system installed in its ceiling.





← MASTER BEDROOM DETAIL

An extension to the master bedroom, this seating space blends smoothly with the neutral palette and plush furniture. The sheer drama created by the custom steel frame partition creates the perfect ambience, bringing in the contrast and upping the glamour. The interior design embraces colours and textures to accentuate the Zen-like vibe of the space, creating a flattering and relaxing experience.

Get the look Justforddecor.com has similar wall murals. Oma Living has similar floor lamps. Furniture from Casa Louvre.

← MASTER BATHROOM

The master suite's bathroom design is meant to rise above the limitations of mere necessity and transport the user into a realm of rejuvenation. The bathroom is defined by a custom steel framed mirror partition, a vanity and a ceiling suspended faucet. The stepped Jacuzzi faces a full-height exterior window. The generous space is reminiscent less of a bathroom and more of a finished living space.

Get the look This is Mesi bathtub from Oyster. The shower system is Artize Showertronic iV6. Water closet is by Villeroy & Boch. And the walk-in is by Pianca, available with Grandeur Interiors.



↑ GUEST BEDROOM

The guest bedroom quintessentially relies on the natural colours and luxurious adornments. Shades of softest pastels and nudes create a mellow ambiance for tranquillity and calm.

Get the look Find similar pendant lights at Lightbox. The bedding is from Maspar. Check out Fabindia for similar dhurries.

→ MASTER BATHROOM DETAIL

The glass partition defines the toilet and the shower area, and acts as a mist barrier from the adjoining dressing area.

Get the look Mont Blanc Italian stone by RK Marble adorns the bathroom. The Valdama Italian countertop basin is from FCML.



TERRACE

The upper level leads to the tower's roof level terrace, unfolding into a place for gathering, refuge and play. At a time when birds are becoming increasingly scarce in the city, the roof terrace with its hydroponic living wall, plumeria and bonsai trees, Ficus trees, flowering plants and water feature can be seen attracting migratory birds.

Get the look The black granite planter and ledge was custom created by Conarch Architects. Find similar figurines at Chumbak.



The green cover
on the roof helps
the home to
remain cool during
the hot summer
days by reducing
direct heat gain.





BATHROOM DETAIL

"In all the bathrooms, we celebrated the fascinating natural rich stone textures, that spice up the home's otherwise neutral palette," says Nitish.

Get the look The basin mixer and bathroom accessories are all by Artize. Find similar backlit mirrors at Somany.

IDEAS TO STEAL

A calm flow of light and air, coupled with statement elements...



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT
Mezo pendant lamp, price on request, Poliform; **rug**, ₹268,800, Jaipur Rugs; **wooden flooring**, price on request, Mikasa; **wallpaint**, price on request, Asian Paints;



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE
Bench, price on request, Ceccotti at Vivono Designs; **cushion**, ₹2,000, Address Home; **bench**, ₹90,000 IDUS; **figurine**, ₹495, Chumbak; **Flag mirror**, price on request, Porada; **Dove lamp**, ₹30,940, *lightandyou.com*; **figurine**, price on request, Etassa; mirror, price on request, Vetromoda; **mirror vase**, price on request, Kelly Hoppen.

