

# spontaneous EXPRESSIONS

Upcoming interior designer **Archana Gandhi** from Mumbai breathes a refreshing candour into her interiors, writes **Savitha Hira**

Photographs  
Indrajit Sathe  
Courtesy  
Archana Gandhi



**I**t is said that a professional's acumen is best reflected by his own domain. Like young and upcoming interior designer Archana Gandhi's in her work in Mumbai.

The beauty of this two-bedroom 1,250 sq. ft. apartment designed by her lies in its 14 ft high ceiling and the sheer play of beams and columns!

One enters to a short pause facing

artistic Ganeshas by Hussain and is immediately struck by the dependable round Chinese lamp hanging above at a phenomenal height. It is the same height that visually enhances the otherwise lengthy living area at one side even as it cleverly camouflages overhead storage in the open kitchen. The kitchen in striking red and silver has an interactive design as the burners face the living room while a large blue-green scarf by Raza steals the show as the backdrop behind the three-seater sofa.

Both bedrooms have attached bathrooms. It is the ceiling that attracts; applying the principle of camouflage,

part of the ceiling that holds the load-bearing beams on either side in the latter bedroom has been cleverly levelled and the central portion curved and clad with *chattai*. The design continues to the headboard and the wardrobe shutters.

A touch of the conventional school of thought prevails in the manner in which tried and tested design tenets are applied instead of the experimental, as could have been expected. In the other bedroom too, a red and yellow fabric anoints the blinds, and is once again replicated as shutters for the wardrobe.

The designer prefers to work with glass. Interestingly, she relentlessly pur-

living

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sued the idea of a glass topped kitchen platform and dado but had to shelve it until a future refurbishing as she ran into execution hassles. So with a granite kitchen platform and a steel dado for company, the other regular material applied is tile. Innovatively harnessed, tile bits have been randomly fixed to create abstract patterns in the bathrooms while similar coloured bits run along the entire house as a charming dado.

Employing an earthy appeal and clean lines as her basic tools of design, strategic traces of thinking out of the box

are noticed; like, the partial pergola-like ceiling in one of the bedrooms that uses randomly oversized rafters and performs the dual function of an attention-grabbing element as well as the route to the storage above. The angular platform in the kitchen with its burners facing the living room is also interesting.

Although Archana has been designing residences mainly, the young lady is keen on taking up restaurants and corporate spaces. She presently operates on turn-key basis but would certainly prefer a consultancy in the long run. ■