



A house becomes a home when the inhabitants feel the sense of belonging and is customised to their specific needs. The brief we got from the client was—raw, rustic and down to earth. So, we decided that we wanted to design the home in such a way that the inhabitants would experience a tropical essence within a modern framework. Personally, if done right, a tropical home can ease stress and inspire positive emotions within the inhabitants. Further keeping Bangalore’s weather in mind, this would be the perfect marriage.

The home features vivid colours on the walls. Bright colours are also used on the soft furnishing—shades of reds, yellow and blues enhance the living areas and follow the tropical earthy theme. To balance the hue-heavy walls and home textiles we used a subtle marble and crude concrete for the flooring (for most areas). The home is split over two floors and is connected through a lift and a staircase. Oak finished wood is clad onto the external surface of the lift core to add definition to it. While traditional cement tiles in shades of terracotta highlight and emphasise the staircase. The timber clad treads and skirting further creates a contrast and continues with the theme of an earthy palette.

The foyer is highlighted by an eclectic



FACT FILE

Project name: Nataraj House
Area: 4,000 sq ft (carpet area)
Location: Jayanagar, Bangalore

SPACE CRAFT

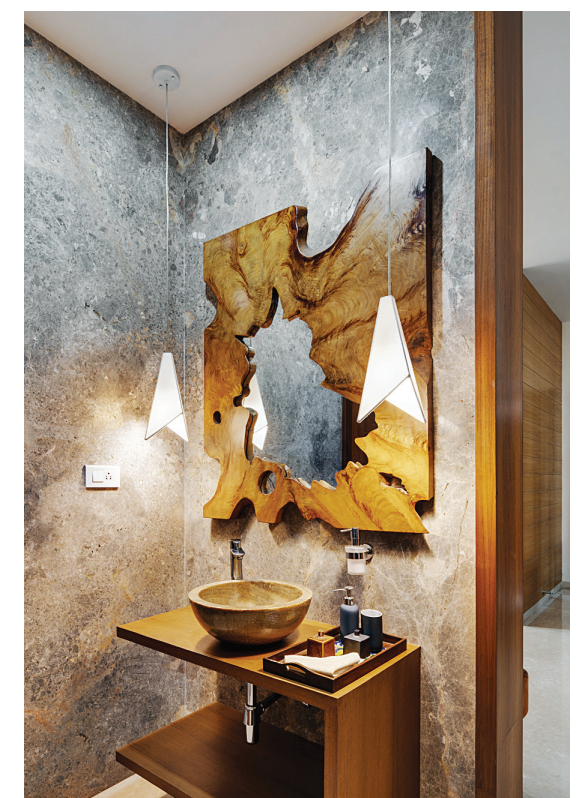
(clockwise from above) Architects Joshua John and Juhi Patel; the powder room; double height dining room; a cosy corner in the living room; the dining table is made from reclaimed wood

A TROPICAL RETREAT

This Bangalore home by Yellow Door Architects is a fine balance of bold hues, clever spatial planning and an earthy-meets-modern aesthetic

By JOSHUA JOHN AND JUHI PATEL

Photographs by SHAMANTH PATIL





console. The foyer opens into the living room. A metal screen with tinted glass with highlights of *sadarhalli* stone is placed strategically to maintain a balance between privacy and openness for the formal living area on the lower floor. The formal living area has a beige botochinno marble flooring which adds to the luxe appeal of the space. Natural Travertine stone is used to highlight the TV unit which breaks the monotony of the wall. The subtle illumination from the bamboo hanging lights juxtaposed with wood-clad ceiling creates a cosy environment. This area then opens into a balcony where the walls are clad with bricks and the metal *jaali* screen provides privacy from the neighbouring buildings.

The dining area has a double height space, where skylights were added to bring in natural light. The play

of light does not end there, a series of concrete lights in different shapes flow seamlessly over the dining table. Reclaimed wood from an old timber door is used to clad an existing beam in the dining area and colours of the seas were brought in through the cement tiles which act as a rug below the reclaimed tree top dining table. The polished cement flooring is juxtaposed with contemporary cement tiles with colours complementing the earthy theme throughout the house and the brass inlay adds a dash of luxe to the flooring.

The informal living area on the upper floor consists of an Indian daybed or divan, a centre table with distress finish and a cane lounge chair creating a sense of comfort and warmth. The underside of the ceiling is clad in banana fibre with highlights of subtle teak.

LIVE IT UP
(clockwise from above) The informal living room; the red wall calls for attention in this bedroom; another living space

Juhi Patel and Joshua John are the principal architects with Bangalore-based Yellow Door Architects and aspire to create spaces that reflect an Indian contemporary ethos. @yellowdoorarchitects (Instagram)

