



Living It Up

SMART AND DISCERNING, THIS RETROFITTED PAD IS A COMFORT ZONE FOR ITS YOUNG BACHELOR OWNER WHO KNOWS ABOUT THE GOOD LIFE.

BY MRIDULA SHARMA | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANSHUMAN SEN

IT'S INTERESTING TO see how a few design features can drastically transform an apartment, giving it a whole new look and feel. Metamorphosed, this high-end apartment is now the perfect place to return to after a hectic day of meetings, negotiations and deadlines. Ensnconed in a quiet and exclusive neighbourhood in the capital, it is peaceful but not boring. It is a bachelor's pad that reflects a penchant for luxury and indulgence.

Very masculine in every which way, its high ceiling and open feel makes it sit smart on the first floor of a renovated modern building. The original outlay of four bedrooms was ripped open to make way for lavish private

rooms, indulgent bathrooms and living areas. It is now a smart two bedroom residence, well meeting the requirements of a young man. Tall and burly ceiling-height swivel doors stand like sentinels to warmly usher in guests.

Designed by celebrated interior designer Raseel Gujral, it carries her stamp in its scale and proportions, lending the residence an air of grandiose while still being minimalist. An otherwise unabashed maximalist, here Gujral has used her design prowess to touch the other end of the spectrum. The tall swivel doors, charcoal walls and a collage of wall lights are her foot soldiers, all of them put on double duty to quickly makeover the ambient mood. For instance, open the doors and the

Opposite page: Comfortable leather sofas, a modern bar counter and a wine cellar are the highlights of the formal living and dining area. Above: The back-lit SS panel behind the bed.



house becomes one continuous length of unobstructed space; turn on the lights and the warm glow makes the charcoal grey walls amber—when switched off, these large lights work as wall installations.

Broadly, the apartment is segregated into the left and the right wing with the former being the more public area, and the right wing being the private quarters; the foyer with its fixed window filters in a flood of natural light. The walls have been painted a light grey, their expansive surface broken intermittently with bold artwork and light fixtures designed and custom-made at Gujral's award-winning design studio, Casa Paradox.

The home is replete with gizmos that would be the envy of any young man. Fuss-free and subtle, the clean lines, textures and gadgets tell the story of an enterprising, creative man who knows what he wants. The entertainment area resonates with a particularly edgy vibe. Generous floor area makes for easy movement when the gathering is big; for smaller group interactions there is a smattering of compact conversation areas which exude a relaxed feel. Deep-seated, comfortable leather sofas, the smart, modern bar counter and the wine

cellar on the wall are the show-stealers here. The formal living and dining area and the bar merge into one wide open space. Here, large windows dressed in formal silk drapes lend it a cocooned theatre-like feel. On a rainy day, pulling back the drapes to watch the raindrops fall on tree tops all around is particularly enjoyable.

The living area of the apartment has an inverted L-shaped layout. Cushy, deep black and brown leather sofas face a wall which displays an 84 inch TV mounted within a wall recess. Below this is a glass-panelled fireplace which when switched on, transforms the mood with its simulated flames. Surround sound, a B&O music system, a lacquer finished bar counter and console, and a built-in wine rack with plush seating make for a cosy boys' night in. Adding a touch of elegance and sophistication are the carefully selected artefacts and accent lamps. A majestic dining table for 10 is complemented by a sideboard from IPE Cavalli's Gran Tour Collection. All lights are controlled from an iPad console with enough combinations to cover a plethora of moods.

With a large bedroom that boasts a massive bath suite and a walk-in wardrobe that caters

Opposite page, clockwise from top: The bath suite plays with shades of grey; Carefully selected artefacts and accent lamps add a touch of sophistication; the glass-panelled fireplace. Above: A dining table for 10 is complemented by a sideboard from IPE Cavalli's Gran Tour Collection.



In the master bedroom, an abstract composition of back-lit SS panel lights on the head wall obviates the need for any art here.

unabashedly to a shopaholics' escapades, there is no mistaking that this is the master suite. The huge expanse of the bedroom is given relief by a leather clad console which segregates

the bed area from the sitting lounge. A large screen TV mounted on a swivel and placed on the console does the job. An abstract composition of back-lit SS panel lights on the head wall obviates the need for any art here. The colours are muted and the retro style night stands and media console steal the show.

The bath suite plays with shades and textures in dark grey. While there is the rare and beautiful grey travertine on the walls and the floor, the wall on the far end coordinates with the twin-tub surround. Oversized flowers and strongly coloured accessories keep the sense of awe alive.

Overall, while the larger and bolder elements of the interiors receive darker treatment in terms of colours, textures and materials, there is enough visual drama at regular intervals to keep the apartment from getting boring and staid at any point. That then, of course, is Gujral's high point of talent. **■**



Above: The guest room has a textured wall finish over the headboard.
Right: The spacious walk-in dresser.