

# Soak it up

From family residences to loft apartments, these spaces stand out for their glamorous decor





# Style quotient

Assorted elements in this luxurious apartment have been brought together to suit the needs of an urban family

**For families living in urban areas, it is difficult to escape the trappings of an apartment. But as apartment spaces get more innovative, residents can enjoy luxuries, such as home theatre zones, indoor pools without having to set foot outside. All it requires is effective use of space and planning.**

Mahesh Punjabi, architect and interior designer of Mahesh Punjabi Associates, designed just such an apartment in Mumbai to suit the needs of a joint family of five. Spread over 3700 sq ft, the apartment has a

living room, dining area, an entertainment room, kitchen and four bedrooms with attached balconies and bathrooms.

"The homeowners wanted a modern space with an indoor pool, an entertainment area, mood controlled lights, etc," says Punjabi.

Executing the project, says the architect, involved going across the globe to source various constituents of the house.

On entry, a nook that serves as the prayer area leads to the living and dining room. The living area, with asymmetrical

sofa seating and a few dramatic accessories, is kept clear for a formal look. The living and the dining areas have been done up in white. Self-textured fabrics cover the sofas to add a design element to the white decor.

A passage connects the entertainment lounge to the living room, which is kept isolated from the rest of the house by use of sliding doors. Lights have been incorporated in the sliding doors to keep the passage well-lit.

"This is the most interesting area of the

*Preceding pages:* An indoor pool is the highlight of this apartment designed by architect Mahesh Punjabi of Mahesh Punjabi Associates. The Deja Vouex pool didn't require any civil work.

*Facing page, top:* Granite and mirrors have been used in the lobby to enliven the area. The materials set the tone for the apartment.

*Facing page and above:* A blue rug and accessories stand out in the all-white living room. A 16-foot sculpture on the wall has been custom-made in gold and silver. Ebony shells have been fused to form spheres and mounted on wooden stands.



**Above:** The dining area forms a part of the formal living room. A cabinet at the rear end of the room acts as a storage area for dinnerware. An orange-hued, glass chandelier reflects light in different patterns on to the walls.

**Facing page:** The kitchen is separated from the rest of the apartment by a glass partition. Ample storage has been provided in the white space with a tinge of grey and orange. A single water purifier ensures potable water flows from all the taps in the apartment.

house. It is exclusively for parties, get-togethers and lounging," says Punjabi.

Accessorised with a pool, a wall-size TV screen and a bar, it is the most dramatic space in the apartment. Four feet deep, the irregular-shaped Deja Vouex pool has been sourced from France.

"The pool has been particularly selected for the small size of its filter. This is the smallest we could find for a pool to be installed indoors," says Punjabi.

Beanbags and sofas have been placed asymmetrically for seating in the room.

The bar on one end of the room faces the screen on the opposite end.

Mirrors on the ceiling reflect the entire space overhead, adding another dimension to the room.

Special lights add to the appeal of this space, as well as to the house. Mood controlled yellow and white lights function through verbal commands.

"If one desires a warm and cosy space, one simply has to say the word 'relax'. This will make the lights dim, draw the curtains close and soft music will start

playing in the room," says Punjabi.

To add a twist to the kitchen space, orange tiles have been used in a space otherwise dominated by white.

"The bedrooms are distinctly designed to suit the needs of the occupants," says Punjabi. "The owner wanted to break the monotony of smooth surfaces and thus to add an element of roughness, a stone wall was added in the son's bedroom instead of a cushioned headboard."

To make the rooms appear bigger, Punjabi has effectively used glass and mirrors



throughout. The predominant colours in the master bedroom are golden and marble.

The bathrooms are complete with fittings for rain showers, jet sprays and waterfall cascades. Materials, such as lapis lazuli, pearls and malachite have also been used in the bathrooms for an opulent look. All bathrooms have glass walls, which can be covered with blinds.

"Small LCD televisions in the bathrooms ensure the owners don't miss out on stock market news," says Punjabi.

**Following pages:** The son's bedroom is a clutter-free area with few furniture pieces spread over pristine marble flooring. A glass wall frames the view of the bathroom, which can be made opaque by pulling down blinds. An exposed stone wall breaks away from the smooth surfaces in the rest of the apartment. The wooden ceiling adds a rustic touch. A chest of drawers and a walk-in closet have been provided for storage.





**Top:** Golden hue in the master bedroom makes the space look opulent.

**Above:** Reflective materials in the bedroom make it look spacious. Mirror on the headboard in the second bedroom adds depth to the view. The apartment's four bedrooms have balconies that serve as sit-out areas.

**Facing page:** White-coloured fittings and cabinets extend the theme to the bathrooms. An artist from Rajasthan was commissioned to carve the tiles of this bathroom. A niche has been created to make space for the figurine from Morocco.

**Architect:** Mahesh Punjabi, Mahesh Punjabi Associates

**Cladding:** Rishabh Marble

**Pool:** Deja Vouex (France)

**Window/door:** Doors N Doors

**Furniture:** Matteo Grassi

**Tiling:** Varese

**Wallcoverings:** Shreeji Innova

**Paints:** ICA (Italy)

**Lighting:** Firefly Lighting Pvt. Ltd.

**Heating:** Cosmic, pool boilers

**Furniture:** Swan (Italy), Natuzzi (Dubai), Roche Bobois (Paris)

**Automation:** Berker (Germany)

**Kitchen:** Bath shop

**Splashback:** La Neesh

**Stove/hob:** Ariston

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