

SUNSHINE IN THE CITY

Inspired by seaside sojourns, this Bengaluru nest, jointly designed by Houseof9 Design and Sunshine Boulevard, is an island-inspired hideaway

WORDS VAISHNAVI NAYEL TALAWADEKAR
PHOTOS NAYAN SONI

The family room is a sunny bolthole where colour reigns supreme. A salsa bookshelf adds a welcome dose of whimsy, while a plaid sofa and wooden armchairs serve as a cooling antidote to the surrounding vibrancy. "Prior to the renovation, there used to be two narrow doors, set slightly apart, leading into the same room. We broke down the separator and created a large 8-foot-wide opening with custom-fitted, teak French windows. This helped open out the room to the rest of the house," says Nain. All furniture is by Sunshine Boulevard



The living room is large and luminous, with a simple, laid-back aesthetic. The furniture—including the bone-inlay coffee table and the sofa, ottomans and benches—is designed by Houseof9 Design and executed by Sunshine Boulevard. The windows wear a delicate sheer from Kosh Furnishings, while the floor is adorned by a rug from Jaipur Rugs. The focal point of the room is the G. Subramaniam painting above the wicker-and-wood accent chairs. “We retained most of the builder-grade flooring,” shares Nain. “The living and dining room floors are marble.”



It was the summer of 2021 when Nain Belliappa received an unexpected call—from a fellow designer with whom she had previously collaborated. “She resonated with our work and was keen on exploring a working collaboration,” she recalls. But this time, the home in question was the designer’s own, and she was particular about the process. “For the first time in many years, I was required to submit a pitch. I initially told her we don’t pitch for projects, but a week later, I called her back with a design proposal. She loved it and the rest, as they say, is history!” “She” would be Namita Agrawal, founder and creative director of Bangalore-based boutique home decor store Sunshine Boulevard, who tapped Nain and her team—which included design lead Ritushree Belur and execution partners Tattva Lifespaces—to imagine a Goa-style bolthole with cheery colour and lots of light.

When Namita—who shares the home with her husband, Praveen, their 10-year-old son, and their 3-year-old American Bully—said Goa, she truly meant it. “I envisioned a place for friends and family to get together; inspired by tropical touches, with equal measures of traditional and contemporary,” she recalls. What was also important to her was preserving the natural light and sense of openness that the apartment—origi-

nally two neighbouring flats—inherently had. But besides a few things that she preferred setting in stone, she was comfortable with letting the design scheme take on a life of its own.

For Nain, the home’s disproportionate distribution presented more than a few challenges. “Since it was designed as two separate apartments, the layouts and orientations were misaligned, and some passageways and doorways were too narrow,” she remembers. The solution, she found, lay in visually demarcating spaces. The passage’s black-and-white flooring, for example, was parlayed into the kitchen, while quirky cowboy doors were used as a clever intervention to hide the open kitchen in plain sight.

The home’s furniture and lighting were jointly designed by Nain and Namita, and executed entirely by Sunshine Boulevard. But the personalised emblems aren’t limited to the decor alone. Artworks and tchotchkes, collected on the family’s travels, hold a mirror to memorable bygone sojourns. “We particularly love the batik art series that my husband picked up at a cute boutique in Malaysia,” muses Namita, adding that much of the art has been carried forward from their previous apartment, “although we did recently pick up G. Subramaniam’s ‘Girls in Festive Mood’ for our living space.” Evidently, for a shell so large, the drama is in the details. For each one commands an equal spotlight, with a unique story of its own. ♦ houseof9design.com, sunshineboulevard.in



From left: An eight-foot-long, custom wood table and wicker-and-wood chairs—upholstered in floral jute—take centre stage in the dining room. A textural fabric panel differentiates the head chair, giving it pride of place. “Namita managed to source a beautiful antique panel, which we mounted above the table,” says Nain. The glass dome light fixture is by Sunshine Boulevard, as is the custom country crockery unit; The kitchen is defined by an ocean-toned backsplash, black-and-white diamond flooring, and daisy cabinetry. Monochrome sketches by an artist friend of Praveen’s highlight the wall.

The kitchen is demarcated from the dining area by way of louvered cowboy doors



Opposite the bed in the master bedroom, is a charming nook enlivened by a French country chair and Parisian-style benches. A chandelier by Sunshine Boulevard crowns the setting



The master bedroom cuts a classic avatar, with a four-poster bed, 3-foot-long side tables and plenty of wooden finishes. The wall behind the bed wears a London putty finish in pistachio green, while table lamps with hand-woven jute shades warm the setting. All furniture is by Sunshine Boulevard.



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The foyer is characterised by a Channapatna-style, three-legged wooden table and a characterful chandelier, both by Sunshine Boulevard. A mottled custom mirror, also by the same brand, lends a sheeny edge at the entryway



Some of the original master bedroom was absorbed into the son's bedroom in an effort to expand the footprint. With ivory walls and bottle green wardrobes, the room is refreshing in its lightness. The son's love of comic books shines through the artwork around the room. All furniture is by Sunshine Boulevard