

The tropical modernist-inspired feature wall wears an oxide finish. A distressed concrete planter, a monolithic spout, metal pouffes and earthy wall lights by Harshita Jhamtani complete the setting



The semi-outdoor transitional space connects the existing residence to the revamped terrace. Achromatic oxide-finished walls serve as a backdrop for the dazzling kumkum box and the swing by Length Breadth Height. The rug is a Jaipur Rugs design

Raising The Bar

THIS HYDERABAD VILLA'S TERRACE BAR, DESIGNED BY NAAV STUDIO, IS A DAZZLING ESCAPE BY STARLIGHT

During the day, Pallavi Chanamolu and Prasad Yerneni's terrace remains camouflaged against the city. Only when the sun goes down and the moon makes an appearance does it glitter to life, its sparkling pendants and antique artefacts holding a mirror to the twilight, and later, to the abiding stars. "As the space was going to be used mostly in the evenings, we blended the built form into the environment," says Varsha Reddy, co-founder and principal of Hyderabad-based NaaV Studio, who was tapped by Pallavi and Prasad to give their terrace a fun(ctional) makeover.

As self-professed hosts with the most, the couple (she is a homemaker, he is an entrepreneur) knew exactly what they wanted—at least in terms

of the layout. "A semi-covered seating area, an open-air dining table, alfresco seating and lots of greenery were some of the requirements," remembers Varsha, who designed various layouts, big and small, that could work together or independently to suit the occasion.

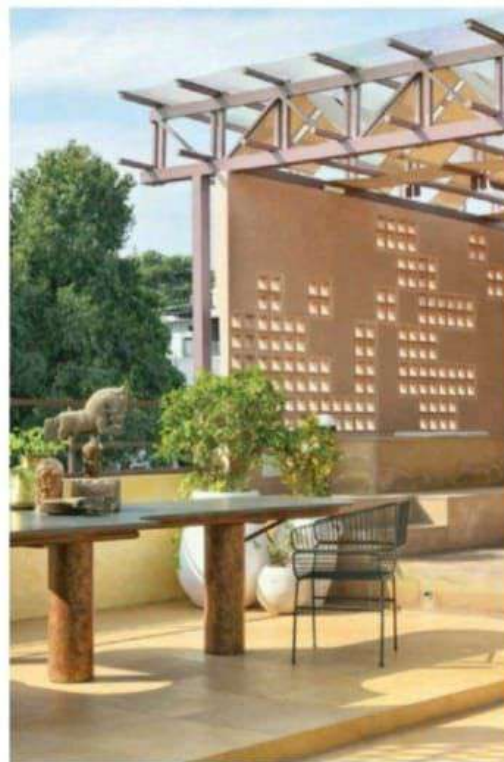
With sunset tones, sorbet sandstone flooring and a gauzy woven pergola, the rooftop bar channels a beachside getaway—if beachside getaways had attached bars. An amorphous bar counter channels an underwater seamount, while the amphitheatre appears as if imaginary waves lapped up their colour and went on their way. Likewise, the walls wear a textured oxide finish, which transitions from a light beige in the bar area to a mustard beyond.

In a bid to keep the space invisible during the day, Varsha dialed down the decor, opting for decorative lights and objets d'art that conjured a tropical modern look. Of course, the invisibility caveat didn't apply to the bar, which she and her team assembled from an oolitic limestone coral block that weighed about 1.5 tonnes. "Even with a team of 15, and after having exhausted almost every trick in the book, we could hardly move the block into place," laughs Varsha. "We had to eventually call in backup." The coral curiosity is flanked by a standing limestone counter on one side and a metallic fin storage unit on the other. The result is a 15-foot-long bar unit that serves as the crown jewel of the terrace.

Of course, the rooftop makeover was not without its challenges. "The first problem area was finding space for a staircase to link the existing residence to the terrace," recalls Varsha, adding that the only other way up was a flimsy ladder that was always threatening to give way. Luckily, she soon found a work-around, turning the study room into a semi-outdoor transitional space to accommodate the stairs. "Another challenge was to create a landscape pocket with seating on the rooftop. A new sunken slab was cast to accommodate the soil, plants and drainage," she explains.

For Pallavi and Prasad, the terrace is equally ideal for boisterous gatherings and intimate soirées. So no matter the guest list, there's always something—and somewhere—to celebrate. ♦

Instagram: @naav_studio



From top: Buttercup yellow flooring meets peachy pink walls in the amphitheatre; A small archway leads into a restroom defined by peachy-pink hues. The vanity is a custom design

THE HOMES MAGAZINE FOR MODERN LIVING

Livingetc

April 2023 ₹150

INDIA EDITION

AT THE HEART OF THE HOME
SUMPTUOUS SEATING AND KITCHENS

THE CHEERFUL CHECKLIST BY
ABHISHEK DEKATE,
AISHWARYA SRIKKANTH,
GAYATRI GANDHI,
KAVAN SHAH
AND SMITHA ZACHARIAH

CONVERSATIONS WITH
SOUMITRO GHOSH
AND NISHA
MATHEW GHOSH,
ANURADHA
ALEGAVI SHUKLA
AND NIKITA BHATE

The happy home

