

The family lounge is characterised by old-world details, including vintage drums, brass lamps, and industrial window frames. The hand-painted peacock and flora are an ode to the natural world outside. The furniture is all tailor-made



BEACH-STYLE BOLTHOLE

This Mumbai penthouse is a coastal-chic oasis that serves as an antidote to its concrete surroundings

WORDS VAISHNAVI NAYEL TALAWADEKAR
PHOTOGRAPHS PRACHI DAMLE

The kitchen is mellow in a mint avatar. With a Moroccan-style backsplash and daisy white counters, it serves as a cooling counterbalance to the family's uproarious cook-outs



Sudhir and Alita Lobo are a house-proud pair. And if you were to swing by their Turner Road penthouse on a Friday evening, chances are, you'd be treated to equal servings of balchão and banter. The easy-breezy spirit, as you learn when you visit them, isn't just restricted to their person—it's channelled just as easily by their walls and windows and doors and floors. "As a family, we like to entertain a lot and it was very important to us that every element tell a story," smiles Alita, gesturing behind her to a wall festooned with antique china plates acquired by the family (which also includes daughters Kiara, 20, and Ayana, 18) on a bygone holiday. Indeed, as you take in the home, one thing is clear—every corner, every piece of furniture, every tchotchke whispers of a past life. But the home wasn't always this way.

When the Lobos purchased the house, it was a blank shell with bare walls and empty spaces. So in a bid to breathe some life into the interior, they tapped long-time friend and designer Sandesh Prabhu—founder of his eponymous Mumbai-based interior design firm—to lend his magic touch. "I was keen on reflecting the Lobos' exuberance and love for entertaining into the home in a way that would feel like an extension of them. Less clutter, more space, minimum furniture and lots of wood was the aesthetic we were going for," says Sandesh, adding that the owners were keen on a South Asian theme.

Perhaps it's the way the light pervades the smallest corners, or the way the breeze wafts in when you least expect it, but there's a lightness of being here that takes you back to the most glorious of Goan days. A crimson armoire cuts a grandmotherly avatar in the living room, while the passageway to the bedrooms, with its tapestry of paintings, is reminiscent of a quaint cafe in a Panaji

bylane. The uninhibited use of colour—be it in the bold teal backdrop of the living room, the smorgasbord of hand-painted wall art, or the sage cocoon of the daughter's bedroom—projects a kaleidoscope of curiously soothing contrasts.

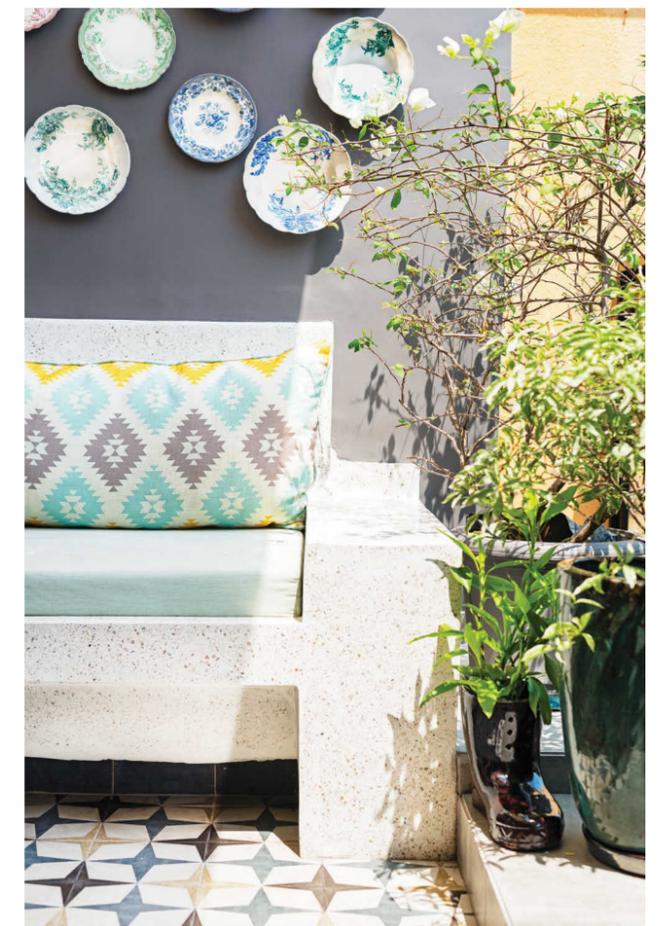
When it came to the flooring, Sandesh used two distinct treatments in a bid to demarcate the common areas from the private realms. While the living and dining areas wear an elegant wooden parquet, a coastal-chic mosaic floor with brass inlay paves the way to the bedrooms—an emblem, perhaps, of what lies beyond.

On most evenings, the Lobos wind down with a cup of tea on their terrace, a charming hideaway enlivened by antique china plates, mosaic flooring and characterful planters. "It serves as a haven for nature to bloom amidst the surrounding concrete jungle, but it has also evolved into a serene spot to escape to after a long day," says Sudhir, adding that for him and Alita, this penthouse may well and truly be their forever home. ♦ sandesh-prabhu.com



Ayana's bedroom is a cucumber cocoon with wooden shelving, teal furniture, botanical artworks, and easy-breezy furnishings

The sun-bathed terrace is a charming hideaway enlivened by antique china plates, mosaic flooring and characterful planters





With teal wardrobes and rattan insets, pistachio walls, and tropical rainforest backdrops, Kiara's bedroom is a slice of Amazonian paradise



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Bright green parrots and iridescent flora enliven the bottle green walls of Kiara's bathroom, channelling an otherworldly emerald forest