

CLASSIC CONTEMPORARY HOME

Fact File:

Project Name, Location – Classic Contemporary Home, Bangalore

Architecture Design Firm – Studio Skapa Architects

Typology and Square Footage – 3-BHK Residential Apartment, 2,100 Square Feet

Month and Year of Completion – June 2022

Principal Architect – Charita Kishore

Text Credit – Lavanya Chopra

Photography Credit – Nayan Soni

Referencing an experience immersed in tangible warmth, this urban Bangalore apartment unravels a meticulously woven composition of colour while bringing the past and present together.

A dwelling's essence is nothing but the stories its inhabitants share, the memories they weave together, and the sheer familiarity one experiences when the word 'home' is uttered. The *Classic Contemporary Home*, situated in Hebbal, finds itself relying staunchly on the sentiment of familial warmth and a notion of belonging with loved ones!

Hailing from the verdant coffee-growing district of Coorg, the Medappas were the close-knit family to call this residence home. *"A brief so open-ended is seldom accompanied by clients who are an absolute joy to work with! This home has been a true labour of love conceived and executed while uncertainty surrounded us through the Pandemic. Pieced together for a nuclear family comprising the parents and their two daughters, the brief from the get-go emphasised their desire for a sanctuary-like abode,"* shares Charita.

Design decisions were carried out with increased fervour because the family members simultaneously inhabited different parts of the world while the collaboration was in progress.

"The success of this design collaboration is a testament to the coordination and patience the family displayed in tandem with the studio! Mr. Medappa has been residing in Africa while looking after coffee estates for close to a decade and corresponded from there; the older daughter was communicating with us remotely from the US, while Mrs. Medappa and her younger daughter were in town to contribute to the project in person. The studio was originally brought on board in 2019, and between then and executing our vision was a considerable period! The final design ethos after almost 3 years in the making reflects the

morphing inspiration we've sought, and I think it best reflects who the Medappas are at heart," she adds.

Having previously inhabited an apartment in Bangalore, the clients wanted to explore a welcome departure from the aesthetic they had found themselves surrounded by over the years. Their former residence was dotted with omnipresent doses of dark wood, which led to them wanting to now inhabit a home that anchored a visually light, bright, and sprightly persona. Over the course of designing the spaces, the family found themselves gravitating towards a palette that amalgamated the best of both worlds. In addition, throughout the home, many of the client's pre-owned pieces of furniture make their cameo, further reiterating the coming together of the past and present. The residence needed to simultaneously pose as a nucleus of the family's congregations for their loved ones and friends, ensuring they could play the fun-loving hosts they are!

Honouring their roots, the resultant design scheme boasted elements of traditional plantation homes and a minimal demeanour which was their aspiration for their new residence, thus christening this home with its fitting name. This residence is a tapestry of colour, sumptuous woodwork, and a trove of art and artefacts the clients garnered over their travels.

"Akin to all our creative design endeavours, our projects visualise our client's lifestyle, heritage, and vision as the main muse! With the Classic Contemporary Home, our intent has been to spark joy and adventure while acknowledging that comfort in a home shall always reign supreme. The spirit of this home relies strongly on its inhabitants, their needs, and curated accents of colour," explains Charita.

Accessed via a private lift, the entrance foyer becomes one's primary introduction to the dwelling. Driven by a minimalist sensibility, the petite space was designed to marry pragmatism with modern nuances, ensuring that it remained visually uncluttered. Playing the protagonist within the area is the artwork from Africa, paying a subtle ode to the family's connection with the continent. The bespoke matte black shoe storage credenza earmarks the zone idyllically, owing to its louvred and gently curved silhouette that grounds the space.

Flanking the foyer, the powder bathroom epitomises a bold statement! Staying sincere to the hybrid design narrative surging through the home, the powder room borrows inspiration from Indianized influences crossed over with modernism. *"Powder bathrooms are a predominantly popular choice of space when it comes to making a statement! It allows the Designer to pack in oodles of character while treating the volume of a compact space with an edge,"* says the Principal Designer.

Transporting one's mind to a realm of wonder, the powder bathroom's focal wall is lined with a botanically inspired wallpaper reminiscent of a mystical garden. This design intervention allowed the studio to give the generic builder-grade bathroom a facelift while transforming it via the simple addition of printed wallpaper and monotone paint in a deep green shade. The brass-framed circular mirror and floating vanity unit sheathed in green laminate with gilded hardware complete the space gracefully.

Ruling over the heart of the home, the formal living area lends its volume to conjure a charged ambience during any get-together! Envisioned as a timeless space characterised by its pared-down materiality, the living area makes a compelling case for modern minimalism. Bordering a landscaped outdoor deck, this space finds itself bathed in eastern daylight, which dapples the indoors. The spacious and airy living area has been defined by its statement wall feature, composed of silver-grey veined travertine stone sourced from HMG Stones inlaid with rose gold beading to create an enhanced visual pattern. Fulfilling Vaastu requirements simultaneously, the wall is bookmarked on one end by mirror panelling which multiplies the space's expanse.

The television unit on the opposite wall echoes the overruling materiality, comprising a grey Duco-washed finish with rose gold beading against which a wooden floating console has been mounted. The gently curved sofa by *Cane Boutique* has been paired with a duo of classic, meshed cane black-tinted armchairs that were refurbished and upscaled to complement the space. The central coffee table was crafted in exposed concrete, adding a touch of rawness to the chic palette. A conversation-starter kudos to its sculptural presence, a wooden bark procured from the client's Coorg estates graces a corner while narrating a saga of the family's history in the company of indoor greens. The artisanal rug by *MIMI Homes* ties the entire room together while underpinning the muted tapestry of colour indoors. Accent tables by *The House of Things* add to the quiet opulence of the space.

A sanctuary shrouded in greens, the abutting outdoor deck lines the living space and allows the family to spill over into the area comfortably, especially while hosting. *"Perfect to start one's mornings within or to enjoy a gathering with loved ones, we designed this deck as an organic extension to the home. We created a snug built-in bar bathed in black Duco with shutter infills of tinted glass. A stunning rhino gold marble variety was obtained for the bar countertop,"* she adds. All furniture utilised was upscaled and freshened with a few coats of matte polish and renewed upholstery. This portion of the home was layered with a generous dose of plants and bric-a-brac from the client's travels, making it a personalised spot that celebrates indoor-outdoor living!

An inviting and decadent part of the blueprint, the dining space is articulated around a massive black marble-topped dining table and pastel suede chairs. Seating a gathering of up to eight individuals, this space is crowned by a gilded geometric pendant light by *The White Teak Company*. *"An elegant and strategically planned crockery hutch has been positioned as the backdrop to the dining zone, perfected to a T per the client's needs. Crockery and barware have been displayed and tucked away adeptly to ensure the hutch functions optimally while elevating the aesthetic of the space,"* Charita explains. Tucked between the vertical storage, antique glass makes a debut within the unit, which adds light and depth to the spatial perception.

Nestled on one end of the dining area, the prayer nook has been created with cloudy-beige rhino gold marble as cladding with open cantilevered shelves. A set of floating drawers underneath add to the storage, embellished with matte gold hardware. In the centre, the

traditional Kodava brass lamp ‘*Thook Bolcha*’ makes its iconic presence felt, bordered by devotional plaques.

Sharing its threshold with the dining area, the kitchen employs a robustly dynamic and bold design vocabulary! Immersed in an interplay of monochromes, the formerly light-deprived and constricted kitchen was devised with a novel identity owing to a transformation of layout and material palette.

Recollecting the process, the Designer shares, *“Kitchens are the beating hearts of most Indian homes, and this residence was no exception as we embarked on this transformation journey with Amber Homes. Most of the preparation and cooking processes would be carried out in the wet kitchen and utility sequestered towards the rear of the residence, allowing us to design the dry kitchen as an active and social part of the house. Furthermore, the non-load-bearing wall between the dining and kitchen was taken down to reveal a large, open, and interactive scheme of spaces, which was an absolute game-changer!”*

The lacklustre builder tiles were switched up with black and white geometric flooring by *Hemnil Tiles Studio*; this design decision allowed the continuous flooring to be visualised as a canvas of sorts. White as a hue rules the roost within the kitchen, ubiquitously making its way across the cabinetry, countertops, and wall dadoing. A central island introduces contrast within the space, with its base in matte black and a canopying chandelier above it by *The White Teak Company*.

Marking a segue from the communal to private zones of the home, the passageway hosts a collage of the family’s treasured photographs and memories. With the family members spending prolonged time in other parts of the world, this design feature held a highly personal significance to them. At the end of the corridor rests a contemporary piece of abstract art from *MIMI Homes*, perfectly tying in with the dwelling’s grounding and calming aura.

Channelling a zen-filled ambience and accented with hues of green, the younger daughter’s bedroom occupies the smallest square footage and makes an unmissable impact! *“Capitalising on its views of the landscape and umpteen daylight, the design motive focused on keeping the milieu vivid and easy on the eyes. Essentially treated as a minimalistic volume, we dotted the room with slivers of colour, prints, and engaged pragmatic storage to address all her needs,”* adds Charita.

The entrance to the room is lined with built-in louvred cabinets, inconspicuously embedded into the white-laden walls. The pastel green panelling against the resting space commands the room while hinting at a classical influence. The off-white suede upholstered bed is fringed on either end by the clean-lined nightstands over which the glass globe and brass pendants are suspended. The soft furnishings, along with the arched olive-green full-length mirror by *Cane Boutique*, make for the other sole addition of hue within this whimsical space. White and ivory as colours are an intrinsic part of the bedroom, coming through in cabinetry finishes and drapery, respectively.

Inspired by the impression of a contemporary cabin of sorts, the older daughter's bedroom adopts a consciously unconventional design language in comparison to the rest of the residence. *"Enveloped in her most loved colour, the entire space comes alive with an emerald-green hue! The space is moody, cosy, and unabashedly expressive at its core. We've worked with a palette of warm and dark finishes to balance the room out while introducing design features that also anchor great utility,"* expresses the Designer.

Alluring one's gaze instinctively, the resting space's composition revels in a raw expression of materials in their native form. The walnut-hued veneer fluting is asymmetrically met by the deep green Duco wall panelling, creating a stimulating backdrop to the crafted hardwood bed and nightstands over which smoky glass pendants levitate. The green hue bleeds into the edge of the room, culminating in a black Duco and grid mirror-clad wardrobe ensemble, which visually doubles the bedroom's volume within its reflection.

Modest and yet exuding personality, the ensuite master bedroom transports one to an era of Victorian design yet entwined with a definite modern edge! Situated adjacent to a private balcony, the master bedroom's expanse seems to reach into the outside to make it one with the inside.

"We knew the master bedroom needed to be emblematic of a timeless sensibility and freshness! The key was to keep it minimal yet adorned with just the right number of statement elements that could define the space. The custom-made four-poster bed is the hero within the room, reiterating our inspiration of melding the old and new," quotes Charita. The grey-blue bed is paired with nightstands in the same tint, set against a serene white wall harbouring sleek moulding details and ornate wall sconces. The furnishings within the space contribute a certain vivacity, boasting of ombre tones witnessed along the curtains and bedding.

The wall on the opposite end was designed inventively, comprising a tall vertical shiplap in a blue-grey hue with moulding-clad cabinetry built over it to conceal the television when the latter isn't in use. A petite study has been fashioned by the corner with a cantilevered wooden desk and an ergonomic chair by IKEA.

Perfected to the client's preferences, the walk-in closet assumes a galley layout and resoundingly brings wood and white tones to the forefront. Treated with walnut veneer and off-white lacquered glass, the walk-in closet leads to a vanity nook at its far end equipped with a large mirror and open-shelving storage. The mirror's length is interjected by a floating drawer, flanked on either ends by a pair of accent wall sconces.

The master bathroom was spruced up to elevate the functionality quotient by miles! The builder-grade marble was retained, and storage was incorporated under the sinks to create his and hers vanity. A lengthy dull brass-framed mirror traverses the length of the wall, topped off by linear task lighting. A cabinet has been built out in the corner, creating a designated spot to store linens.

Through its inception, the *Classic Contemporary Home* has bestowed the inhabitant family with a new start laced with a revitalised spirit for every memory they create within its

embrace. *“In retrospect, our journey through this project has been a lesson in resilience, a reminder of evolving in the phase of challenges. What took over three years to come into being feels completely worth it! We’re overwhelmed as a studio, mainly because we know we’ve been able to redefine the meaning of a home for the Medappa family,”* smiles the Principal Designer.