‘The Motif Home’

We were approached by a couple who had recently moved back to India from the US and had decided at that point that Bangalore was going to be their home. They Had been renting a space at the same apartment complex for a few months where they decided to buy an apartment and make it their home. Being a well read and well-travelled couple, they were pretty clear on their ideologies. Indian art, history, cinema and culture was something that they had in-depth knowledge of and were keen to incorporate the same while designing their home. From our discussions we concluded that we needed to give them something that is ‘close to nature and celebrates culture’ and that’s how the concept for ‘The Motif Home’ was created. We have used motifs, patterns and colours in different forms and scales, all influenced by India’s rich heritage of art and craftsmanship.

Foyer

The passage at the entrance of the apartment was converted into a foyer by building in an elegant shoe storage unit with a little seat that is supported by a custom-made wooden leg. Vertical teak strips were used for the shutters to allow ventilation for the storage unit and the unit was stained with a rich walnut polish. This custom wood credenza sets a warm tone that suggests an extensive use of natural materials for the rest of the house. Also, at the entrance is an interesting poster – an abstract depiction of 4 famous movies that hints at the couples love for Indian cinema.

Living

The Living room is kept fairly simple with white walls and a mostly neutral colour palette with only pops of red to highlight the space. Our clients were very particular about having a very comfortable couch as they would spend a lot of time on it, so we went with an easy maintenance, extremely comfortable off-white two-seater with wide arm rests. The center and side tables from Fab India add warmth to the space while the elegant white and brass lampshade brings in the charm. The Hero of the living room however is the large cut out of the Sabyasachi wall paper from the Nilaya collection that we framed and used as a statement piece. Drawing one's attention directly to it's intricacy and fine detailing 'The Gokul Pichwai' was the perfect piece of art for this space. "Inspired by the art of Pichwai and the Vrindavan tales of Krishna, this painterly pattern of springtime glory delights with whimsical details. Four stirring earth shades with glimmers of gold bring the scene to life: Rani, Khubanee, Neela and Kheer, while a shimmering fifth - Kheer on mica, heightens the sense of luxury and the suggestion of a glowing harvest moon." we deliberately kept the frame subtle to allow the wall paper to be the focal point. A simple cutwork fabric for curtains, indoor plants and little artefacts from their collection completes the space.

THE MODERN HOME

Dining

Being an open floor plan the dining space is visible almost at the entrance of the apartment as soon as you step out of the foyer. The transition zone between the foyer and living houses a beautiful console and a distressed grey circular mirror, both sourced from Fab India. A quirky focus light above the mirror highlights the little trinkets displayed that were collected through our client’s travels. The reflection of the dining space is seen in the mirror where we begin to notice the unapologetic use of motifs and patterns. Dark wood and silver grey being the colour palate in this space, the mirror goes perfectly with the crockery tiles on the opposite corner and the fabric of the dining chairs.

A compact 4-seater dark Sheesham wood dining table and chairs from Fab India perfectly contrasts the sand dune shade of the wooden flooring below. The chairs have a rattan weave and a beautiful linen silver grey fabric for the seat. A subtle glass Mughal style pendant lamp hangs above the dining adding to the subtle richness of the space.
The built-in crockery/Bar console was custom made and is a celebration of motifs, from the shutters, to the backsplash tiles to the brass knobs. Shutters for the lower unit was made with a pattern of wooden beading over antique glass while the top unit has a clear bevelled glass. We fell in love with those gorgeous embossed ceramic tiles with subtle hints of silver and bronze to highlight the various patterns on each tile. Two custom made wooden pillars were added on either side completing this unit that transports us back into a beautiful haveli. The passage leading to the rooms houses prints of some beautiful noteworthy paintings.

Home Library

As mentioned earlier, our clients are very well read and have an impressive collection of hundreds of books ranging from art to history to cinema to fiction and a lot more. This exciting collection of books and magazines deserved a space of its own where it could be displayed and showed off and that is exactly what we have tried to achieve with this home library. The study that doubles up as a home library was one of the most exciting spaces for us in this project. Although our clients were initially sceptical of having such a huge book shelf from wall to wall afraid that it would be a bit too overwhelming, now they couldn't be happier that it does justice to their precious book collection.

The Study room houses the home library on one wall and the study table on the opposite wall. The home library is designed on the largest wall in the room also being the first thing you see when you enter. Unlike the rest of the house, we have broken way from all the patterns and wood for this space and blocked the room with a single colour in order to be the perfect base to allow all the books of various sizes and colours to be the true heroes. A pleasant French Blue was chosen to be colour blocked on this unit with open shelving of various sizes above and routed profile shutters for storage below. Spotlights were added in random openings and matt gold button knobs for the shutters. This Library houses a grand display of an amazing collection of books and travel souvenirs and has the most comfortable recliner with a foot stool creating the perfect reading corner. We would confidently call this space a book lovers dream!

SEQUENCE
HOGWARTS LIBRARY

Kitchen

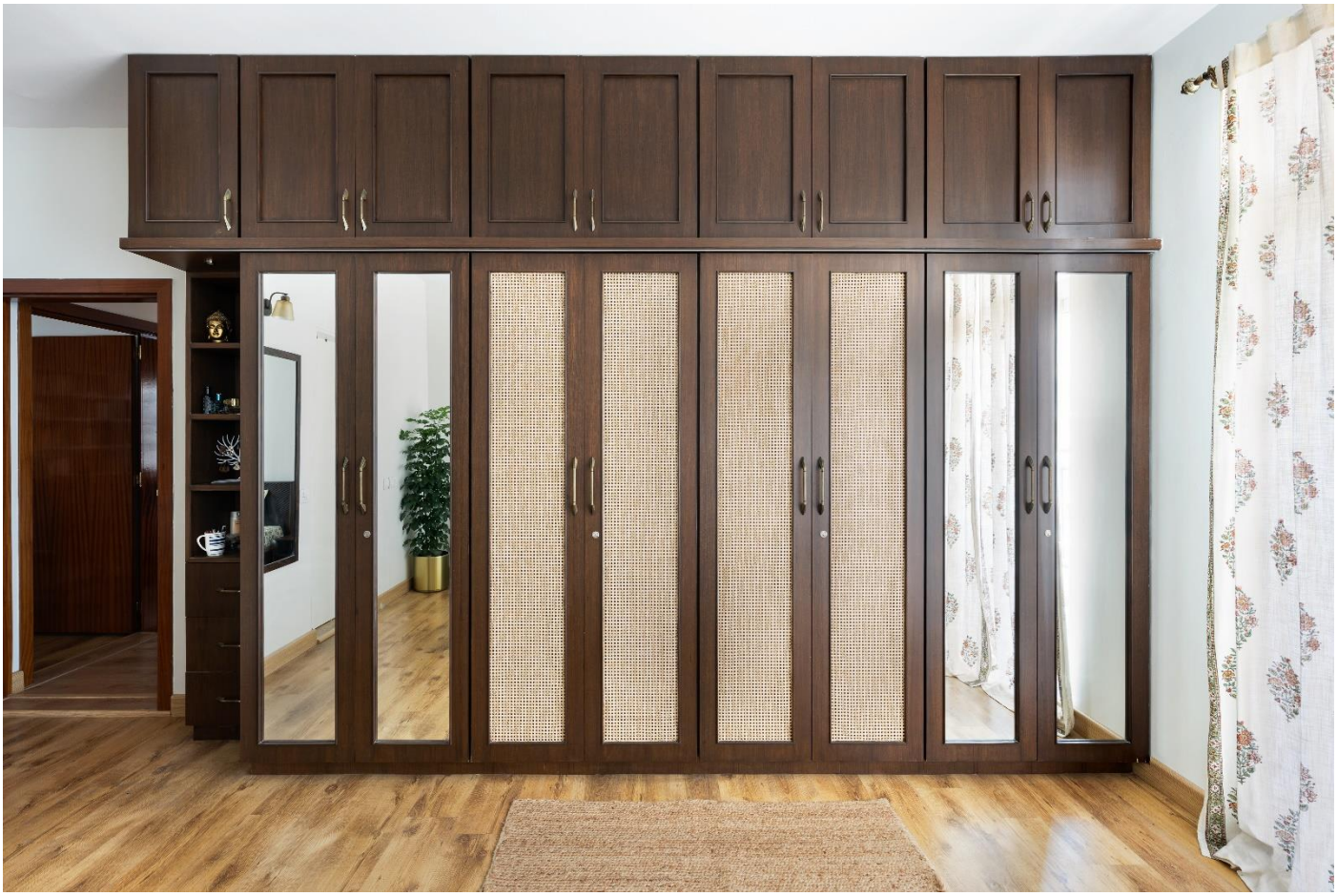
A white kitchen is something that our client’s dreamt of having. Although the size of the kitchen is compact, we have designed it in such a way to provide ample storage space and functionality with smart kitchen solutions. White routed profile shutters in contrast with the most gorgeous ‘Portuguese Azulejo tile’ inspired ceramic blue pattern tiles makes this kitchen oh so charming! A Vetro Bianco white quartz for the counters and dramatic dark blue handles for the shutters to add character.

Guest Bedroom

The Guest bedroom is another favourite space of ours. A modest size guest bedroom is packed with charm and character. Here we go back to using natural materials and celebrating Indian heritage. The Highlight of the room is that beautiful wall paper again by Sabyasachi's Nilaya collection. We picked 'Jaipur Valencia' as the wall paper to go behind the bed headboard and what's interesting is that we created a ledge on the wall at around two third the height of the wall and took the wall paper up only until the ledge giving it some breathing space above.
The ledge is used to display little trinkets and books.
"An old way of life returns. Jaipur Valencia is an aristocratic yet light and refreshing pattern in hushed hues as delicate as a memory, offering a teasing glimpse into the splendour of palace art and architecture. Discover Jaipur Valencia in 5 vintage hues: Pani, Chandan, Mogra, Wedgewood and Aquamarine."
There are a lot of interesting elements going on in this bedroom. The wardrobe shutters are made with a beautiful walnut veneer in combination with rattan panels for a few shutters and mirrors for the others. While the rattan panels add charm to the space, the mirror panels give an illusion of spaciousness.
Side tables from Fab India also have a rattan weave on them complimenting the shutters.

Master Bedroom

For the master bedroom, our clients were very clear that they wanted to stick to a very neutral palate as this is a space they come back to and relax at the end of the day. They didn't want anything dramatic or overwhelming in this space. Hence, we've kept the master very simple with white walls, wood and rattan. The best part about the master is that we managed to achieve a large end to end wardrobe with ample storage space for both of them. Similar to the guest bedroom wardrobe, the master wardrobe also is made of a walnut veneer with few shutters in combination with rattan panels and a few with mirrors. We also added a full-length dressing mirror by the bathroom door next to the open shelves for ease of access. All these mirrors reflect the natural light coming in and makes the room look bright and spacious. Printed curtains from Fab India bring a subtle character to the otherwise calm and neutral space.



Bathrooms

The bathrooms were the most transformed spaces in this project. All 3 bathrooms were completely renovated from plumbing to electrical to re-tiling. Since the apartment complex is a few years old, the condition of the bathrooms were terrible and extremely unpleasant tiles were used before we took over. The transformation of the bathrooms from before to after is so satisfying and totally worth all that time, money and effort we put into it. We went with our theme of ‘motifs’ for all bathrooms and found absolutely gorgeous pattern tiles for each one.

For the master we sourced this blue and white pattern tile that we laid on the wall that we see as soon as we enter. This in contrast with white tiles for the relief walls and blue tiles for the floor. This space is stunning and one of our client’s favourites.

For the Guest Bathroom, we have used a beautiful rustic white tile for all the walls and a lovely blue and red pattern tile for the floor.

The powder room is very charming with a beautiful pattern tile that runs on the floor and WC ledge wall while the rest of the walls are rustic white. Here we have created a sleek storage unit for extra towels and linen. The storage unit is made with a walnut finish laminate and large mirrors to make the bathroom feel more spacious.

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PROJECT INFORMATION

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Project: The Motif Home

Project Location: Prestige Shantiniketan, Whitefield, Bangalore
Date of completion: December 2021

Project size: 1400 sft

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