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A Blueprint of Style

Hyderabad-based designer Vasundhara Sampath crafts a 13,200 sq ft duplex into a stylish sanctuary where design details reign supreme

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The courtyard features an extended step clad in lapis lazuli, a nod to the blue that accents the ground floor. The hue recurs in the dining furniture and wall art by Within. A metal Frangipani tree from Alex Davis takes centre stage in the foreground, complemented by wall panelling from Scasa and pendant lights by Within

Pared down with a reigning neutral palette, the home is transformed by a discerning eye for detail, a refined material palette, and a curated selection of art. “It is because of clients like these that I love my profession more and more,” says Vasundhara Sampath, principal designer at her Hyderabad-based practice, Philosophy Design Studio, who is the creative force behind designing this luxurious home. A past client recommended her to this multigenerational family of seven, and it was an instant match. The clients, in their early forties, comprise a family that includes parents and three children — two young daughters and a son. They desired a home in Hyderabad that felt and looked different from their previous residence. Having lived in a bungalow for many years, they were reluctant to move into an apartment but the hesitation was partly alleviated when they decided to merge two four-bedroom flats vertically. While the bungalow boasted a classical appearance, the new home required a contemporary design featuring a layout that provided privacy, connectivity, spaciousness, and complied with vastu principles. With this brief in mind, Vasundhara developed a plan for a 13,200 sq ft duplex apartment, connected by an internal staircase.

Both floors share the same footprint yet differ in spatial planning and accent colours. A warm beige provides a neutral backdrop, while bronze accents define the design. Hints of brass in partitions, inlay, furniture and accessories contribute to an indigenous, refined appearance. The home also features art and murals that echo the family’s former residence, created by artists

such as Somnath Bothe, Yuvan Bothysathuvar and Umakant Kanade. On the ground floor, a set of steps near the foyer includes a single, longer step clad in lapis lazuli, establishing the blue accent that recurs throughout the level. This blue detail appears in the lapis and mother-of-pearl inlay in the flooring, in artworks and furniture from Within, and in the motifs of partition walls, showcasing Vasundhara’s design approach. A notable accent is also the Jaipur console in blue, positioned in the dining room. On the first floor, multiple accent colours come into play. The master bedroom features a crystal green, inspired by subtle hints of malachite in the bed and flooring pattern. In the drawing room, a dual-toned artwork by Yuvan Bothysathuvar shifts from blue to red depending on the angle, neatly encapsulating the home’s coherent colour scheme.

While the home adheres to the design brief, the son’s room is crafted with its own distinctive character. “The six-year-old boy wanted a family of African elephants with accents of yellow like bananas, and even a baby elephant eating sugarcane,” explains Vasundhara. And so his wish was fulfilled with this exact scene painted on the walls, as a thoughtful personalised touch. The new abode is extremely stylish, but it is details like these that make it a home. Room by room and detail by detail, Vasundhara has designed the home to be inviting and comfortable, while curating an aesthetic and functionality for the future. “The client envisioned a classy and elegant style, his wife preferred a rustic character, and the son wanted his jungle theme. It was a clear decision, and in the end, everyone was satisfied – including me,” concludes Vasundhara with a smile of satisfaction. ♦

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The drawing room commands attention with its furniture, lamps and framed wall art by Within Design, all outlined in thin brass details. Glass candle stands, a chandelier and a coffee table by Eichholtz add a subtle feminine touch, while wall panelling from Scasa forms the background

In the ground floor family living room, the sofa and centre table are by Ravish Vohra Design whereas the accent chair and side table are by Within Design. An interesting feature here is the fireplace by the staircase from where the TV comes up as and when needed. Another important element is the artwork on the main wall which is actually a coffee table from Within Design, customised to pose as wall art





“Room by room and detail by detail, Vasundhara has designed the home to be inviting and comfortable, while curating an aesthetic and functionality for the future”



The two-poster bed features inlaid malachite alongside black and white marble, while the bedside lights from Eichholtz extend the aesthetic. Curtains from Studio Orion frame the French doors

Distinguished by pale wooden accents, the kids' study room has a study unit from Alsorg and a lounge chair from Nivasa. A sliding door from Scasa opens the view into the family's media room where a Nivasa sofa and coffee table complete the look.



VASUNDHARA SAMPATH HAS BEEN a driving force in the design industry since she began her creative journey in 2009, successfully completing 400 projects worldwide, including luxury homes, retail spaces, offices, and hospitals. At Hyderabad-based Phylosophy Design Studio, Vasundhara understands that every project is a reflection of their clients' personalities, values,

and dreams. Her designs are heavily influenced by her passion for travel. This exposure to various cultures, colours, and tastes infuses her work with a richness and this is what sets her apart. Her ability to connect with people has earned her a reputation for excellence in delivering projects that are as functional as they are beautiful.

DESCRIBE THIS HOME IN THREE WORDS?

Elegant, welcoming and heartfelt.

WHAT'S ONE THING ABOUT THIS HOME THAT THE CAMERA CANNOT CAPTURE?

The warmth of the homeowners, the passion with which every corner was designed, and the story behind each handpicked piece.

A DESIGN OBJECT YOU COVET FROM THIS HOME?

I loved all the artwork in the house, especially the stunning Yuvan Bothysathuvar artworks.

IF THIS HOUSE HAD A SOUNDTRACK, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

In this home, every moment feels like the Bill Withers' song Lovely Day, where love and happiness effortlessly fill the space.