

# ELLE DECOR

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AT KARIM RASHID'S  
ATHENS HOTEL

WHAT'S HOT,  
WHAT'S NOW...

# The new look issue!

GLOBAL INSPIRATIONS IN THE LIMELIGHT



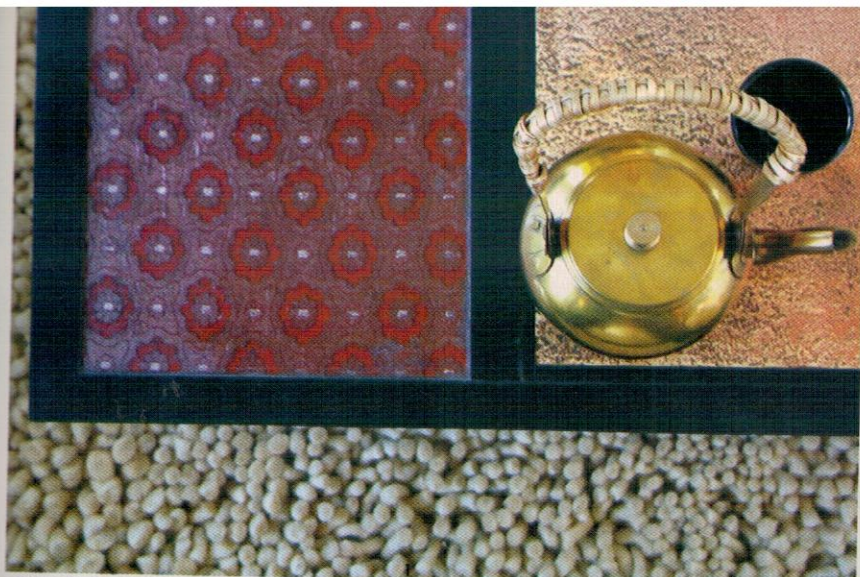
# it's all individual

Evolving unique design patterns from  
the lives and times of the Ghosals —  
an unlearning to learn a new approach

TEXT BY **TANUSHREE** and **MANISH GULATI** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **AMIT MEHRA**







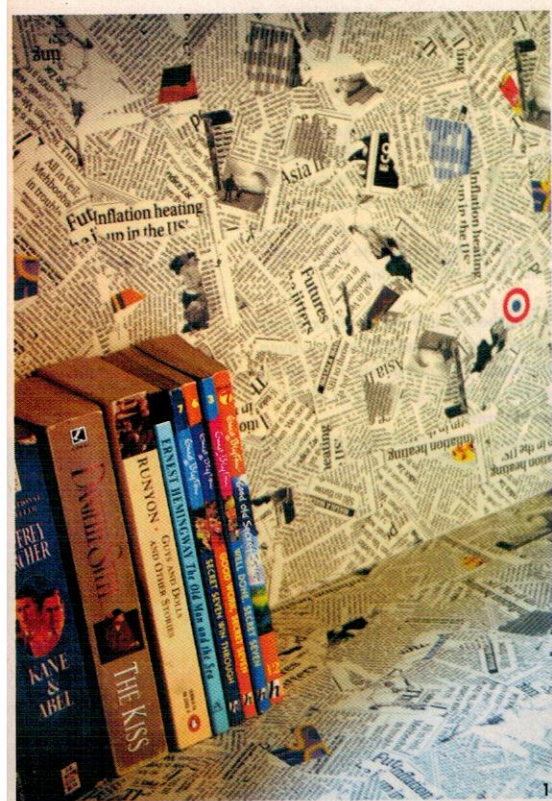
1. Centre table detail with epoxy coated sari and acid treated copper panels

2. Living room and lounge with open, fluid space. Continuity is marked by the arrangement of various furniture pieces. On the wall are traditional African masks from World Bazaar. On the left, a wall of wicker with copper reflectors serves as a huge lampshade bathing the room with a mystic light in the evening

3. The bar has an inlaid honey onyx counter, with wicker and sheesham chairs woven by traditional Kolkata artists. The ceiling is marked by the strong lines of black sheesham rafters







**THIS PAGE:**

1. Detail of the bookshelf with newspaper print laminate
2. Morning lounge with Pucci chairs upholstered in tussar silk. Inside the bright red door on the right, a walk-in storage and a bookshelf, which are both tucked under the staircase

**FACING PAGE:**

1. Living room with inlaid wicker panel and copper reflectors connected to the morning lounge on the extreme end and onyx bar on the left
2. In the bedroom, a niche in the coffee shaded wall has African figurines from World Bazaar. The patchwork bed sheet from Goa is layered with cushions in shades of fuchsia
3. Dining space. Wicker lampshades and "S" chairs woven by traditional artists from Kolkata. The open-plan kitchen is seen beyond

The process of designing is invoking, self cleansing and rewarding in many ways – is what we learned while conceiving the duplex apartment for Sabari and Probal Ghosal. In between the innumerable dinners and lunches hosted by the gracious couple, we managed to find time to create a comfortable, warm house. It was designed from the references and relationships formed in their lives. A family of four, their cosy five bedroom apartment could accommodate a whole lot. The brief was to identify and relate to that very warmth and their journey through times, textures and space.

We started the process with an informal discussion of their lives so far – individual love for books, food, saris, wood, lamps and so on. The biggest challenge lay in re-planning and converting the flat into a more customised, fluid space that was not divided into many rooms. We began by transforming one of the extra bedrooms at the entrance into a lounge connected with the living area. The attached toilet was reduced to a powder room and the freed up space in between became an open bar.

A completely boxed in kitchen was opened up and the floor of the adjoining dining space raised using a polished sheesham wood platform to create an interface between the guests and hosts who love entertaining. The staircase was transformed from being a connector into a transitional library with a morning lounge at the lower level and a study at the top, joined by a string of bookshelves to house the owners' prized collections.

In our series of experiments with space and materials, we used old saris, froze them in transparent epoxy tablets and placed them at the entrance. A wall of wicker (woven on site by craftsmen from Kolkata) with large copper reflectors became a huge lampshade to bathe the living room with a mystic light during the evenings. To continue the trials on textures, other elements like a honeydew onyx bar counter, sheesham rafters and acid treated copper table tops were incorporated.

The experience of designing for the Ghosals was exhilarating, giving us a new and deeper clarity towards creating a house....

It's not what we designers wish to design, but what the clients carefully choose and pick, elements from their memories and hand over to us to evolve a pattern that is so unique, marvellous and dissolves all design theories. Then what we learn in years is unlearned and we start afresh into a process called...non-designing. ♦





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