

Kitchens · Bathrooms · Bedrooms · Living rooms

the DESIGN SOURCE

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Harking back to the 70s in good taste

A compact flat serves up its own set of challenges for a designer – how does one make it in style and contemporary, at the same time allowing for all the needs of the family, which are at premium in the minimal space? Manish R Dikshit (B. Arch), a partner with Aum Architects helps us realize the constraints and how to effectively overcome them. The result is all the more effective as the particular flat is a sample, and as Manish explains, “ basically meant for the property developer, to attract the end user and to appeal prospective buyers and designed to make the area look livable and homely.”

over 6 years experience in designing and consultancy in Architecture, Interior and Civil Work. Mr. Dikshit embarked on his career by working with renowned architects such as Hafeez Contractor and Mr. Wadia. Throughout his career Mr. Dikshit, an Interior Architect in Mumbai, has been involved in the primary design for various projects both commercial residential and even worked as an architect with

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D.I.D Consultants before establishing Aum Architects. Mr. Dikshit is also a guest lecturer at the Rachna Sansad Institute of Interior Design.

Here, the style of the entire design is worth contemplating on right at the beginning. Everything about it – the choice of colours, the design and shape of the furniture pieces, their setting, the materials used, especially in the drapes and upholstery – harks back to



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the era of the 70s. Yet, the ensemble cannot exactly be termed 'retro' since it very clearly uses many elements of design from the art deco movement, which can be specifically seen in the design of the furniture pieces. It can therefore be best described as a smart mix of these two styles and one had to agree that the end result is definitely eye-catching.

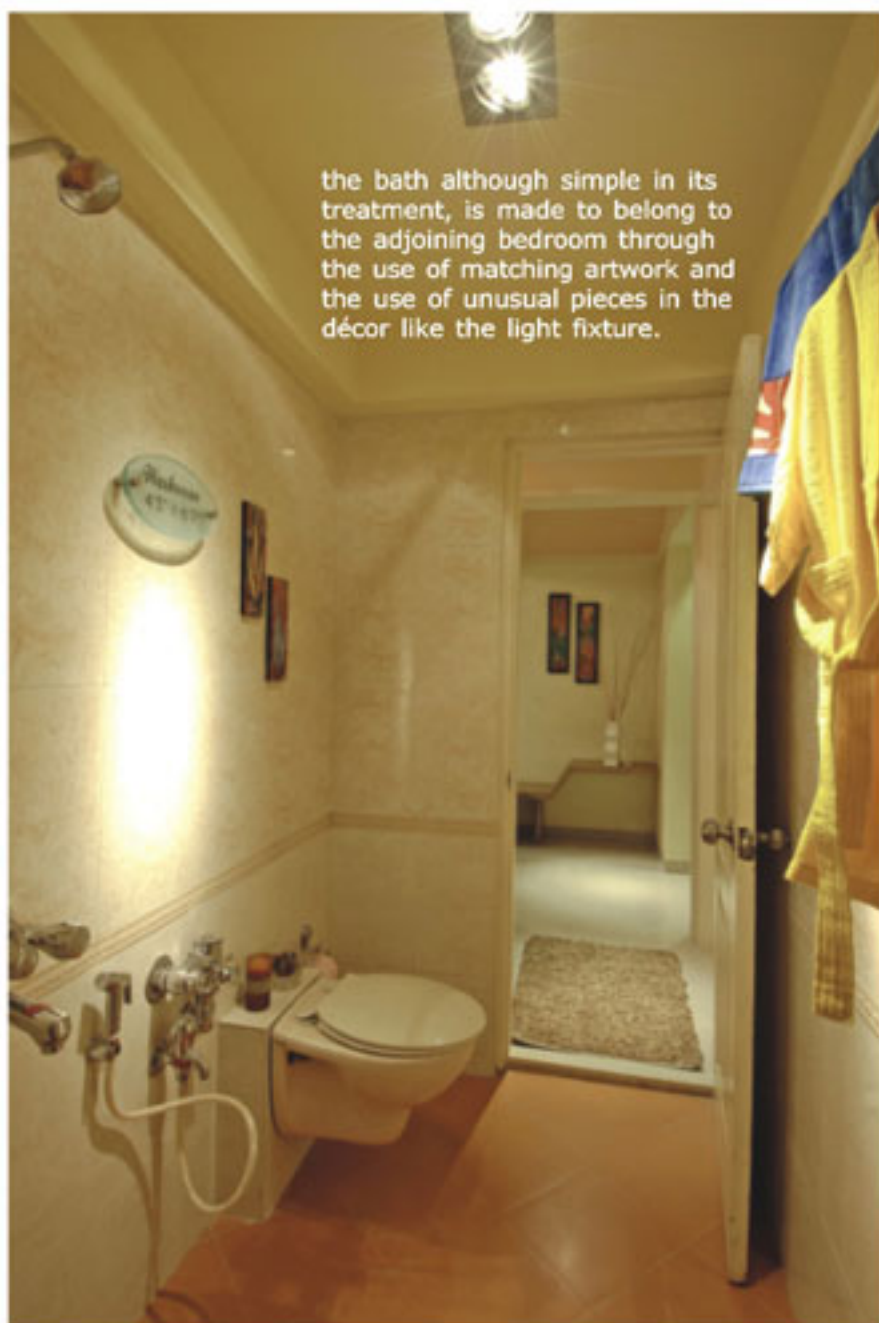
A niche within the living area has been treated as such, with a character which is distinctly its own. The combination of bold checks and curved furniture pieces is indicative of a preference to the 'art deco' movement.





Tussars and browns form the colour palette for this bedroom, which keeps to the retro-ish, art deco-ish style chosen for the décor of this home. The room has been kept free of unnecessary clutter inspite of using large, bulky furniture pieces.







The living room has two settings – one meant for a larger group and informal, with cane furniture and a rustic aura, while the other more formal with modern art work on the picture wall and a symmetrical setting. Bold colours on the walls by way of paint, artwork, and murals – all serve to highlight the character of these spaces.

The dining area too is unusually designed with a bench used along two sides – this helps conserve space and accommodate a larger gathering in case of a party.

The bedroom too is kept simple and earthy, with the furniture and décor elements belonging in part to the retro style and in part to art deco. Says Manish, "I have used a minimalist approach for the design, which has

a children's room needs to be fun, colourful and allowing of any activities that suit the children's fancies and this one with its bunk beds and space for spreading out is just that.

been put together as per the needs and purpose. Special care has been taken of lightings to create a picturesque view.

We love to give a contemporary designs and elements, which was followed in this case too."

Elaborating on the particulars of this home, he says, "Here, I was working with a sample apartment for a

Mumbai based builder, with just about 650 sq.ft carpet area. The objective was to maximize the minimal space. Heavy lighting was utilized to highlight key elements like furniture. The result was the construction of a "dream house" in a matter of 10 weeks."

And we say that this flat allows the viewer the added benefit of sampling Manish's prowess as a inept designer too!

All the furniture in this room is kept along one wall, with the work desk tucked away under the bunk. This gives the effect of the furniture being a floating entity within the room.





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