

DESIGN

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MATRIX

PEOPLE • LIFESTYLE • DESIGNATORS

In conversation with **Ketan & Manisha Sheth**

Today's challenge is to do something better than the best. We cope up with new challenges, while energizing the spaces, making living beautiful and comfortable.

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Blissful
Abode

An Architect's dwelling



1

Matunga, an eclectic part of Mumbai is a mix of tradition and modernity. The 320 sq ft family house of **Ar. Manish Dikshit** is situated in one of the older buildings of this locality. This home is on the ground floor and opens up to the verandah. Even though the building is surrounded by vast redevelopment around, it stands tall for the history.

Photo Credits: Prashant Bhat



Manish Dikshit

Ar. Dikshit, founder, **Aum Architects**, Mumbai; transformed his one room kitchen family home into a weekend home by blending together his childhood memories. The beauty of the old apartment is its spaciousness; keeping the design minimalistic, the focus was to highlight the

- 1 The view of the living room.
- 2 Kitchen detail of the open storage with the custom made back painted glass.
- 3 Artifacts on the side table.





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existing elements and revive them with a modern twist. It was to bring together the old elements and merge them with the new.

The living area has a sit out space, a small wardrobe and TV unit. All the doors and windows have been retained and restored. Even the handles and locks on the old main door have been reused. The new wardrobe was finished in veneer to match the wooden grains of the door; the shutters of the wardrobe were kept plain with a black custom made handles. The flooring was replaced to have vitrified tiles that have the sheen and shine of Onyx in the living room and the passage. The same tiles form the background for the grey sofa cum bed sourced from Italy. The tiles are laid horizontally, matching with the colour on the walls. Four sleek white hanging lights adorn the clad wall. A part of the seating is a pair of chairs upholstered in a



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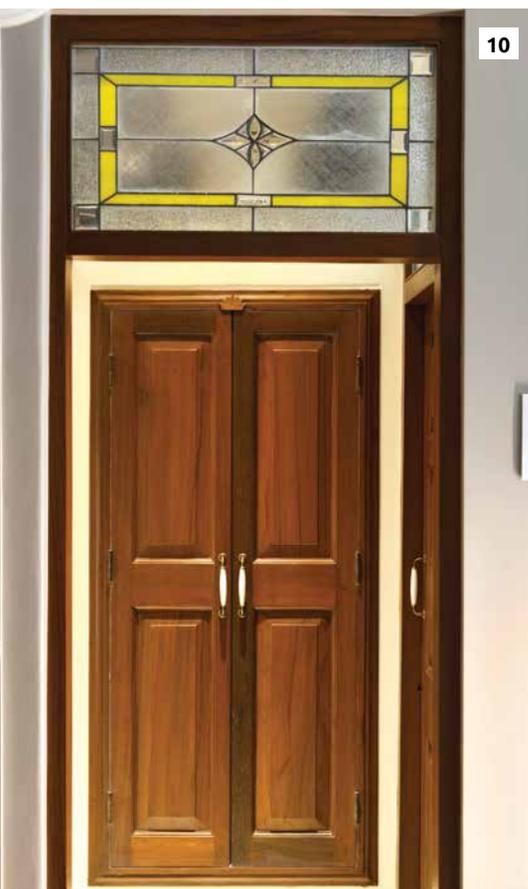
- 4 Living room, view from verandah side with a sofa cum bed.
- 5 Dining area in the kitchen - view of open table.
- 6 Kitchen window pane detail.
- 7 Shower area & Washroom.
- 8 Kitchen accessories.

blue colour fabric that pops out. The hexagonal print rug complements the colours of the living room.

Ar. Dikshit is a keen traveller and during his many excursions, he has picked beautiful artifacts that spruce up the house. One such stone idol sits on an antique wooden trunk, placed in the sizable kitchen with one working counter provided on one side. Another counter was created adjacent to it in the niche below the window; for some open storage. Overall the kitchen has been kept



8



white, with the working platform in white Q4 stone. The under counter storage has bevelled shutters finished in semi-glossy lamination in pristine white and the overhead unit, made of glossy back painted white shutters fixed with edge profile. Porcelain handles in white and antique brass finish were selected for the bevelled shutters. Even though two different styles and materials have been used to make the under counter unit and the overhead unit, they blend in beautifully. The walls are painted in a contrasting darker hue of beige. The existing windows in the kitchen were restored and the glass was replaced with frosted Mesh glass for privacy reasons with some artwork on the lower glass pane. Geometric deer artwork was done in-house; these running deer were printed on a transparent film and pasted on the glass, making it a unique feature and distracting the eye from the lines of the glass. The

unit created below the window for storage is a combination of closed and open storage. The unit again is all white except for the back of it, which has a customised print on it and glued to a glass and fixed. A very English motif with a subtle background in the tint of cerulean blue was chosen for the back of the open shelves. Another important feature of the motif is that it has been made in continuation as one piece with a shelf in the middle. This unit again is adorned by old Indian pickle jars that are used for storage. Ar. Manish Dixit wanted the house to reflect the era it was made in. The kitchen is so spacious that it could accommodate a dining space as well. A part of his childhood memory was a table his architect father had made and he wanted to translate it into a current situation. A folding table was customised to accommodate dining space for four. The folding table was designed to blend with the older windows of the



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9 Kitchen and dining top.

10 Overlooking built in cabinet in passage.

11 Door leading to bathroom.

12 Dresser.

13 Key holder.

room; wooden frame and clear glass top. Once closed the table resembles a dummy window. The niche was created within the table and its frame to have some glass shelves for a single row of storing. A dresser was made close to the washroom. The plain shutter of the dresser has been dressed up with an antique black M.S. motif. The washroom has a separate wash area and toilet; though it has a common entry. The common wall between toilet and washroom has a unique built-in a light fixture that was restored as well. This house can be called a connoisseur's cave, a stylish

apartment with the confluence of old and new.

Know the designer

Aum Architects, spearheaded by Ar. Manish Dikshit is a leading consultant in interior design and architectural services in India and around the world. With a dedicated and passionate team of talented architects and designers, this company takes pride in completing over 120 projects, for eminent clientele spanning across 10 countries including UAE, Singapore, and Spain.

Ar. Dikshit, a gold medallist in architecture has created award winning designs. He has a keen eye for detail and that is seen in his designs. His ingenious approach for every project ensures optimum usability of space and also making it aesthetically functional. 📍

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