

Homes & interiors

Inspiration to help transform your living space

'D' FOR DEVELOPMENT

HIGH-END New projects in West Bangalore are changing the landscape of the City. On Page 2



GO THE RETRO WAY

BACK IN TIME Antiques lend that timeless touch to make your home special. On Page 4



Sunny days are here again...

SUMMERTIME

With the summer at its peak, it pays to keep your home real cool with these interesting ideas, writes Bindu Gopal Rao



KEEP THE HEAT AT BAY Floral designs & bright colours add freshness to your home. PHOTOS BY KESHIHA ART & DECORS

The sun is shining rather brightly and it is that time of the year when things are bright and white. So why not give your home a special makeover for this season? Wondering how? Read on...

Decor matters

The easiest way to make your home ready for the summer is to start with furnishings. Lighten up your colour palette at home as light shades reflect natural light better than darker colours. Heavy fabrics, like velvets and brocades, can weigh a room down, while lighter fabrics such as linen and cotton lighten a room and evoke a sunny feel.

"Add skylights since they reduce electricity costs in the long run. Install them in rooms that are used most often, such as bathrooms, and in locations that receive the most sunlight," says Dinesh Jain, Director Marketing & Sales at AXR Properties (P) Ltd. "Surround yourself with objects, colours and textures that make you feel at ease, but don't clutter the area. Lounging on low-seated chairs with floor cushions and daybeds will inspire your mood," advises Rajesh Mahajan, Managing Director, Maspar Industries (P) Ltd.

Light and airy fragrances like rosemary and citronella are the ones to rule this summer. "Rosemary is one of the most aromatic fresh herbs and is known

“ SPRUCE UP YOUR WALLS WITH JOYFUL ART AND HANGINGS IN POLYSTONE, SYNTHETIC WOOD AND LAMINATED PRINTS...

for its relaxing qualities. Citronella is one of the most popular choices because of its great scent and its natural insect-repelling qualities," says Divyan Gupta, Founder & CEO, Art and Decors Keshiha Services.

The sticky summer calls for use of floral and natural fragrances in your home. "Take your pick from scented incense sticks or fragrant candles like vanilla, lavender or jasmine to lend freshness. Tall vases or circular vessels of brass filled with water and strewn with flowers creates a royal appeal; whole roses for tall vases and marigold petals for brass vessels," says Ashish Dhingra, MD, Obsessions. And adding a water element is the

best thing you can do. With small yards becoming more common, there is a lot of interest in smaller pools with all the features of a larger one.

"One can consider having a landscape architect help with ideas like a cool seating area created alongside the pool with seasonal plants and greenery as fencing to shield from the heat," says Vivek Mishra, MD and Technical Head, Premium Pools.

Wall art

Spruce up your walls with joyful wall art and hangings in polystone, synthetic wood and laminated prints. "Line your room with a treasure trove of memories

with splendid collage photo frames in subtle shades of brown. Merge these reflections of great moments with the real time by opting for clock photo frames in glass and wood," advises Suminder Pal Singh, GM, Sales and Sourcing, fashionandyou.com. Textured 3D wall art and products is a great way of instantly altering the sense of monotony in a room.

"Contrasting cabinets in high-gloss and low-gloss are also a perfect way to achieve some much-needed disparity. Pastel hues is also trending as it brings elegance and sophistication to the ambience. Also, gold and silver shades in home decor is in right now as it adds a lurid metallic spark to the room," says Samir Virani, Founder, Its Our Studio.

Colour can also add texture and interest to your design. "For example, exposed brick would complement a rustic design scheme, embossed paisley-printed wallpaper would add elegance and funk to a chic layout, and glossy slate-painted walls would sync wonderfully in a modern space. Add variety to your walls' texture by featuring hanging drapes, chenille curtains, mirrors or hand-carved mouldings," says Suvigya Sharma, Artist & Designer.

Ajith Karimpana, CEO, Founder, Furlenco, says, "Use printed wallpaper on some of the dominating walls of your home. Add sheer bright coloured curtains to add a breezy element to your living room. If your living room feels cluttered, replace your centre table with a nice, large, bold coloured rug."

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