



interiors

INDIA

TRENDY TILES

A LOOK AT THE
LATEST STYLES AND
INNOVATIONS IN THE
TILE INDUSTRY



MOUNTAIN MAJESTY

Huus Gstaad Hotel celebrates warmth and nature in its design.

CRAFTING CULTURE

Architect Rooshad Shroff talks about his foray into product design.

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TREND ALERT: TIPS ON HOW TO EMBRACE THE MONTH OF LOVE WITH THE COLOUR RED

GLORIOUS GOA!

A quaint villa-vacation home in Goa is an ode to all the European influences of the architecture in the area.





The Mangalore tiles used in this home are typical to Goan architecture.



Raya Shankwalker, Architect

THE CHAIRS IN THE BALCONIES AND VERANDAHS ARE TRADITIONAL WOODEN CHAIRS WITH 'ROTACAO' PANELS SOURCED FROM A HERITAGE GOAN HOME.

The generous use of grey and white, barring the pop of orange in the form of cushion covers, gives the room a calm vibe.





The small sea-facing state of Goa in western India is home to several European architecture styles, thanks to its long colonial history. While the Portuguese mostly ruled over the area, there are also Mughal influences to be found in the region. Many of the churches and homes built in the 16th and 17th century sport the Portuguese Baroque style, while towards the early part of the 20th century, under British influences, there was a shift towards Neo-classical and Gothic Revival styles.

Some of the characteristics typical to Goan architecture include elements like the houses opening into courtyards and rarely onto streets. The houses are typically outward looking and ornamental, with balcões (covered porches) and verandahs facing the street. The large balcões had built-in seating, where people could gather. These balcões were bordered by ornamental columns that sometimes continued along the steps and added to the stature of the house. Red Mangalore tiles were used for the roofing and large ornamental windows with stucco mouldings (similar to mouldings found in Portuguese houses). These are elements you will notice in a Goan home. The use of columns or pilasters and railings is also popular. If you ever wondered about the colourful hues you see when driving around Goa even today, there is a bit of

Architecture, to us, must not only create wonderful spaces to live, work and play but it must be a key participant in the shaping of the built environment and the sustainability of our planet.

history attached to them. There was an unwritten rule during the Portuguese occupation of Goa that no private house or building could be painted in white. Only churches and chapels enjoyed this privilege.

Inspired by all these elements, Raya Shankhwalker Architects, a Goa-based design studio, creates contemporary spaces that provide a cultural and historical context. Their Villa at Assagao is a project designed for Vivara Homes which is part of a line of signature luxury homes. The project is a vacation home that encapsulates the essence of Goan architecture and a laid-back vibe. "The brief that was followed was to create a home that is contemporary yet draws information from vernacular building styles while maintaining an eco-sensitive balance. The home is designed such that it offers the luxuries of a vacation home along with the comforts of a residential property. It has a casual ease synonymous with Goan living.

The brick wall together with the repurposed cart as a table are earthy elements in the living room.



The tiles used in the bathroom along with the white bathware help continue with the natural theme in the home.



Wood is celebrated in this home – from the large dining table to the stairs.



The key rooms of the house such as the bedrooms and the living and dining areas, have a picturesque view of the lush tropical foliage.

drawing inspiration from the traditional Goan house yet engaging the latest trends in tropical lifestyle design making it comfortable yet chic. The seamless connection between the surrounding landscape and interior spaces became a key design driver for the project,” says **Raya Shankhwalker, architect and owner of the studio**.

Much like Goan homes, this home also invites nature in with an open layout and offers stunning views. “The home is designed to accommodate semi-open large verandahs and

balconies at both levels, which become the most revolutionary spaces in the home. The key rooms of the house such as the bedrooms and the living and dining areas, give a picturesque view of the paddy field outside and lush tropical foliage. All spaces are well illuminated and ventilated and seamlessly connect to the outdoors,” says Shankhwalker.

The studio sourced most of the interesting furniture and décor elements locally. “Sourcing objects of everyday use such as bharnis and cane baskets from vendors in the local



The verandah near the pool sees use of natural tiles that have been locally sourced.



Pops of colour in the house can be seen in the form of cupboards, rugs and cushions.

Goan markets and repurposing them into objects of varying functionality or simply objects of décor was an interesting task. The chairs in the balconies and verandahs are traditional wooden chairs with ‘Rotacao’ panels sourced from a heritage Goan home. Trunks were sourced from Mumbai and repurposed to become side tables fusing a pop of colour. The bedroom houses a canopy bed that complements the high pitch roofed ceilings,” explains Shankhwalker. Other striking and obvious introductions of Goan architecture can be found in the colours as well as the materials used to construct the home, like the flooring and tiles on the roof. “The colour palette is a combination of whites, browns and greys that effortlessly blend with the hues of green in the landscape around the



house. Pop coloured highlights have been introduced in the home with accent cushions, rugs and art pieces. For the purpose of construction, we have used local material such as brick, laterite stone, recycled wood and Mangalore tiles. The material palette is all natural – with extensive use of stone and wood. Kotah stone is used for flooring while some areas are covered in yellow IPS,” adds Shankhwalker.

The brick statement wall in the living room along with the cart repurposed as a table is a lovely décor element that adds to the casual vibe of the home. One can relax in the central areas of the home with views of the pool and landscape around, thanks to the large French windows truly making it a vacation home that brings Goa indoors. ■