



# SERENIE

## Living

GA design gives a fresh twist to design at this home for the Vakharias in Mumbai.

Sophistication is redefined at the very entrance to the Vakharia house. Illuminated by a backlit, laser cut frame, one enters the plush home through an ebony-coloured door with leather panels and steel grooves. Stepping in, a large, airy room in blue and white greets the eye. 'Fresh' is the first impression the room makes on the mind. And, this is the exact response that designer **Ritu Goregaoker, Principal Designer, GA design** wanted for her design.

Entrusted with the brief of creating a design that is fresh and youthful, Goregaoker's immediate thought was to do away with any signs of veneer or wood, as far as possible. "The home had to be different from the usual beige and cream or wood and veneer combinations," she says. After considering a couple of options, the design team and clients decided on the never failing white base, set off by different colours, with blue being predominant.

### Starting afresh

It all took off from the flooring. The white in the Greek tiles that cover the living room

The blue in the cushions and rug adds a fresh touch to the design, as desired by the clients.





Grey makes a dramatic entry in the son's bathroom with the shimmering tiles forming the backdrop of the WC area.



Backlit onyx with a deep red polycarbonate basin adds colour and drama to the corridor.



The dining area is lit by a blue, ethereal Buddha painting illuminated by blue LEDs.

floor is matched on the focus wall that stands to the right of the entrance. "A white, matte PU frame starts from the TV panel – which is bathed in blue LED light – and continues to hold the door for the master bedroom and ends up in part-mirror slits with veneer step panels," explains Goregaoker. "The idea was to create a focal point in the entire room that would instantly draw the eye of the visitor. These breaking points in the wall met that purpose: to bring out the rest of the design," she continues.

### The blissful blues

The dining area, which is a seamless part of the living room, is lit by a blue, ethereal Buddha painting illuminated with blue LEDs. This piece floats above a black crocodile leather dining console with a Corian table top – a material combination also seen in the TV unit.

Balancing the overall design is a blue rug and sequined cushions that offset the grey

sofas and feature wall. The long feature wall is highlighted by grey wallpaper with a silver leaf design. While the sofas were outsourced, the rest of the furniture – the centre and dining tables, console, chairs – have all been customised on site. "The centre and dining tables have glass tops and Corian bases with soft curves that offset the clinical and harsh effect that is usually associated with all-white interiors," says Goregaoker.

### Comfort in luxury

The Greek tiles flow into the master bedroom adjoining the living room. Here, the silver-white wallpaper is beautifully interrupted by a large brown stitched leather panel that forms the backdrop of the bed. Moving on to the son's bedroom, the design flow changes slightly with the addition of black. Here, the backdrop is a wall naturally divided into two halves: one part has a dark blue and black patterned wallpaper and the other is stark white. The highlight comes in

the form of the backlit design wall in the corner. Serving as the temple, the wall has been extended outwards, and the tube lights installed within shine through laser cut Corian set on milky white frosted acrylic to create a *jali* effect.

In the attached bathroom, grey makes a dramatic entry with shimmering tiles forming the backdrop of the WC, while grey matte tiles grace the shower area. A niche in the window provides for shelves, and black Maroena marble strips appear on both sides of the mirror and WC.

In the grandparents' room, the design changes almost drastically. "By the time we went through the whole house, I did not want the flow of colour to become monotonous," shares Goregaoker. While still avoiding wood and veneer, Goregaoker chose a green-and-dull silver combination for this room. The colours are seen in the veneer cupboards and Serpeggiante flooring, offset by patterned ivory wallpaper.



The temple area in the son's bedroom is a unique feature wall with laser cut Corian set on milky white frosted acrylic backlit to create a *jali* effect.

### Utility in style

The corridor that connects the living room to the kitchen is a stand-out element in terms of design, colour and even material. Serving as a common wash area, the backdrop is backlit onyx with a quaint, almost delicate, red washbasin in polycarbonate resting on a hanging cabinet made of Corian.

The rather small kitchen is accessed through this corridor. Two glass door panels that slide in synchronisation flank the entrance. White artificial marble clads the floor and counter. Adequate and efficient storage was naturally of prime importance here, and this has been prioritised in the design.

"Usually, overhead shutters are around four feet high. But, with the need for increased space, we added another level and covered it with a mirror shutter in profile (installed in an aluminium frame). The same has been done on the opposite side so that the shutters reflect each other and are nearly invisible."



## Meet the designer

### GA design



FIRM: GA design, founded in 2000 by Sachin, Ritu, Shami and Rajan Goregaonkar.

FIRM SPECIALISATION: Architecture and interior design.

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY: For our design to grow and to give the customer a designer space.

PHILOSOPHY TOWARDS LIFE: To grow in life. You start at A and finish at Z and even beyond.

FAVOURITE ARCHITECT/DESIGNER: Daniel Libeskind and Zaha Hadid.



Aqua green, back painted glass adds the element of colour to the otherwise all white kitchen.

explains Goregaonkar. Backpainted glass in aqua green in the form of the sink backdrop, backsplash and lower level shutters brings in colour to the otherwise white room.

Goregaonkar's approach has raised the bar for contemporary design. Bucking trends and creating colour combinations to suit the client's requirements is just what brings in a refreshing newness to the design. Despite the many challenges in creating a white base, using several materials, and infusing just the right amount of colour, the result of Goregaonkar's effort is nothing short of spectacular.

TOTAL AREA: Approx 1,300 sq ft  
TOTAL COST: ₹90 lakh

TEXT: Shanti Padukone  
PHOTOS: Prashant Bhat

#### CONTACT

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The grandparents' bedroom is a contrast in design with its olive green and silvery shades.



The entrance to the home is dramatic with a black tinted glass frame for the mirror in the centre and a deep brown veneer cabinet with black crocodile leather seating on the side.

#### MATERIAL CHART

AREA	MATERIAL	COST	SOURCED FROM
Living room flooring	Star white Italian marble	₹850/sq ft	Flora Marble, Tel: 022-2663 1574.
Son's bathroom flooring	Silver serpeggiante Grey matte	₹500/sq ft	Flora Marble
Kitchen flooring	Composite marble	₹250/sq ft	Grescasa, Tel: 022-2631 3095.
All wardrobes	4 mm dyed veneer	₹140/sq ft	Green Veneers, M: (0)99301 30292.
Living room furniture	12 mm glacier white Corian cladding	₹600/sq ft	Jalaram Timber Mart, Tel: 022-2431 8666.
Guest room	Laminated wooden flooring	₹185/sq ft	Belezza, Tel: 022-2492 4029.
Bathrooms & balcony	Wall tiles	₹250 and ₹300/sq ft	Grescasa Belezza
All rooms	Curtains	-	Dreams, Tel: 022-2284 0125 Pride Furnishings, Tel: 022-2643 4364.
Kitchen cabinet and storage	Backpainted glass	₹130/sq ft	Goda Glass, M: (0)90227 45859.
Living and bedrooms	Leather	₹750/sq m & ₹1,250/sq m	Dreams Bharat Furnishings www.bharatfurnishings.com
Living room sofa	Grey fabric	-	Designa Furniture Studio, Tel: 022-2491 3811.
Living and bedrooms	Wallpaper	-	Shreeji Innova, M: (0)98205 00531.
Living room	Carpet	-	Venjara Carpets, www.venjaracarpets.com
Dining area backdrop	Onyx	₹1,500/sq ft	Flora Marble.