



DECOR RESOLUTIONS

The New Year spells the need for new beginnings and self-improvement. And so, we turned to some of our favourite designers to find out what their resolutions for 2015 are

Feature **MEENAKSHI SHANKAR**



SHRUTI JAIPURIA

Founder & Creative Director, Maia Design

"I would like to work with more artisans to conceptualise, prototype and fabricate unexpected elements in decor."

Shruti believes that designing a space is like designing an experience. With that she also lays emphasis on intelligent layouts, lighting, void spaces, materials, colour, music and scent. She says, "I have found, that often a hint of drama and curation of unexpected elements within an interior can add a layer of surprise and freshness to design. It is uplifting and engaging." Case in point, 'The Black Rabbit,' (facing page) a series of 16 bells that Shruti has designed using polycarbonate. Each bell has been handcast and painted.



SONYA SURI

Interior Designer

"I want to experiment with new colour and pattern combinations in 2015. I also want to travel and find design inspiration from new cultures."

Sonya is deeply inspired by Indian fabrics and colours and is keen on translating their style in decor this year. She also loves the warmth of wood and will be using it in abundance this year. "Keep things fresh," she says. "Design should live and breathe."

KARTHIK VAIDYANATHAN

Karthik Vaidyanathan, Founder & Principal Designer, Varnam

"With fun, functionality as an element is something I want to continue infusing in my work."



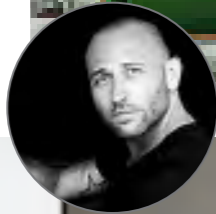
Karthik believes that in today's stressful times, consumers are most happy to see products that not only bring a smile to their faces but, are also functional. In fact, the designer has come up with a series of functional home products. "The Gyaani Goobe (the wise owl in Kannada) series, inspired by the owl, incorporates a night lamp, a pen stand, even tableware.



ANDREA CORSINI

Principal Designer,
Andrea Corsini Interiors
"My resolution is to marry the subtle colours of nature with vintage and bring them to play in modern spaces."

Andrea suggests experimenting with a bunch of unusual colours. He says, "Work with dust colours and moss green. Marry it with the richness of velvet and watch the space come alive and unfold into a dramatic narrative."



KALYANI GANAPATHY

Artist
"Creating spaces which have my individual stamp is something I am keen on this year."

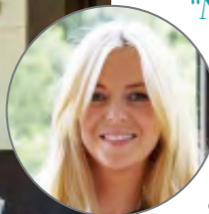


This year, the artist is focussing on rediscovering herself through DIY. Since Kalyani loves hand-woven fabric, she is going to create new handmade cushions, curtains, bedspreads unique to her style. She adds, "Creating spaces which have my individual stamp is something I am keen on this year."



LAURA HAMMETT

Director & Co-Founder, Laura Hammett Ltd.
"Navy is a big trend for both traditional and contemporary schemes and features in almost all of my upcoming projects."



Laura feels that this colour tone is going to be the next big thing this year. Citing an example from a project she's working on, she says, "We've used navy blue silk wallpaper in the dining room teamed with bronze finishes, smoked glass and dark timber to create richness. It's a great accent colour when used against an elegant backdrop of either warm champagne/ bronze tones or cool greys. Another favourite combination is navy and amber, which works in more informal rooms such as family rooms and cinematic spaces."



KRSNA MEHTA

Creative Head and Owner, India Circus
"This year is all about pantone colours. Also, I'm going with offbeat and contemporary over the classics."



Krsna has a volley of interesting recommendations for different areas of the home. He says, "Shades of olive, especially on cabinets, will be popular in 2015, which is warm, organic and neutral for almost any other colour and design you pair it with. Design-heavy prints including on sofa sets and chairs; coloured walls; vibrant rich cushions; heavy design-inspired Persian rugs; mixing colours like purples, and vivid green Ikats with aqua and turquoise, to keep things fresh and a little more subtle for your bedroom."





JENNY PINTO

Creative Head & Founder,
Jenny Pinto Studio

"To follow a lean and minimalistic approach to design."



Her work is innovative and few have dared to tread the path she walks on so effortlessly. Jenny says, "My designs have been inspired by nature and celebrate it to its truest form. With the new season, I want to make the process more energy efficient and keep my designs lean."



RAADESH SHETTY

Owner, The Purple Turtle

"2015 inspires me to create and source products made in India and also encourage people to shop locally."



Raadesh believes that there is so much colour and craft to work with in India that it inspires one to take risks and be bold. He adds, "I enjoy mixing vintage with contemporary, and experimenting with colours. The idea is to embrace your own style and be at ease."



AMRITA NAMBIAR

Creative Head and Owner, OLIE

"I wish to design accessories that represent a perfect balance of the Indian craft with the international aesthetic."

In Amrita's opinion, fresh decor is always welcome. She says, "It's all about keeping our spaces lively yet minimalistic, to layer with print and use colour in accents and art. I adore neutral bases like whites, greys and natural colours and believe in using a lot of handmade, Indian handcrafted products."



LAKSHMI ARVIND

Blogger, Celebrations Decor

"In 2015, I look forward to a year where I will be travelling and exploring local markets, combining colours, patterns, materials and creating textured looks with textiles and finishes."

"The best mantra for an instant makeover would be to paint a wall and add some plants. Styling the dining table is going to be an inspiration that I would like to take forward in 2015. Flowers are an indulgence, always worth having — they don't have to be expensive arrangements. Jasmines, desi gulabs and lotuses will make the home special in 2015." In fact Lakshmi looks forward to a year trending towards organic and handmade products.



SANDEEP KHOSLA

Founder and Principal Architect, Khosla Associates

"In home design, I am prompted to explore more concepts of open-plan layouts, where spaces are fluid, filled with light and air, and are not demarcated into strict functions."



Multi-functional and open-plan spaces are quite the rage today. We chanced upon the architect's Library House project and witnessed this trend amply demonstrated. Sandeep says, "The library combines various activities for the family and provides an anchor to the house. It is a casual space where the family congregates, where carefully demarcated areas for lounging, studying, listening to music, playing the piano, and entertaining are carved out in an open-plan layout."



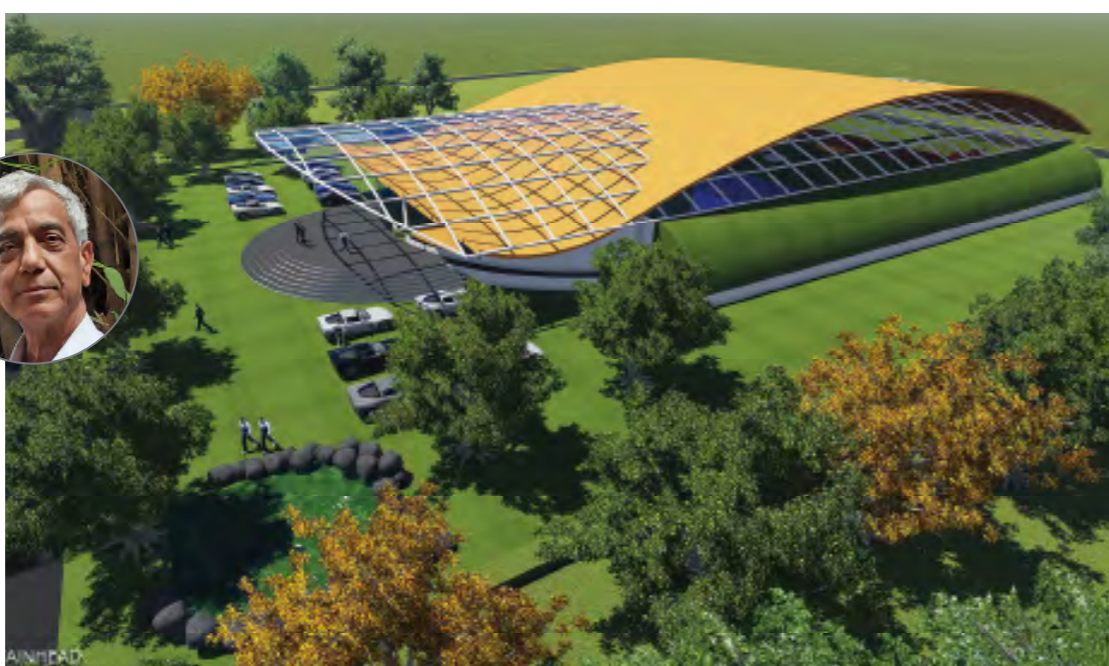
K JAISIM

Principal and Founder, Fountainhead

"I hope that 2015 will see the re-emergence of a play with form and structure and the movement of spaces."



In Architect K Jaisim's opinion, "It is not environmental but intellectual pollution that has corrupted architecture. Creation in its purest form has been relegated to the back burner while eyes turn to treatments and layers of makeup that make up spaces and facades." The architect looks forward to change, as do we!



RASEEL GUJRAL

Creative Head, Raseel Gujral Ansal

"I am deeply inspired by the pristine splendour of nature. From blue skies to sunny hues, even refreshing floral shades, it's all I need to transform a dull abode into an exciting reverie."



For Raseel, nothing spells inspiration better than nature herself. She says, "Nature signifies opulence and resilience — it is the definitive resource for inspiration. Surround yourself with the living splendour of floral profusion as the refreshingly vibrant pink and orange accents of Casa Pop pack an edgy punch. From incidental pieces of furniture to canvases; soft furnishings in botanical cushions and accessories, to its depiction on breakfast trays; the faultless beauty that is explored in the outdoors, is expressed in interior design to transform it beyond compare."

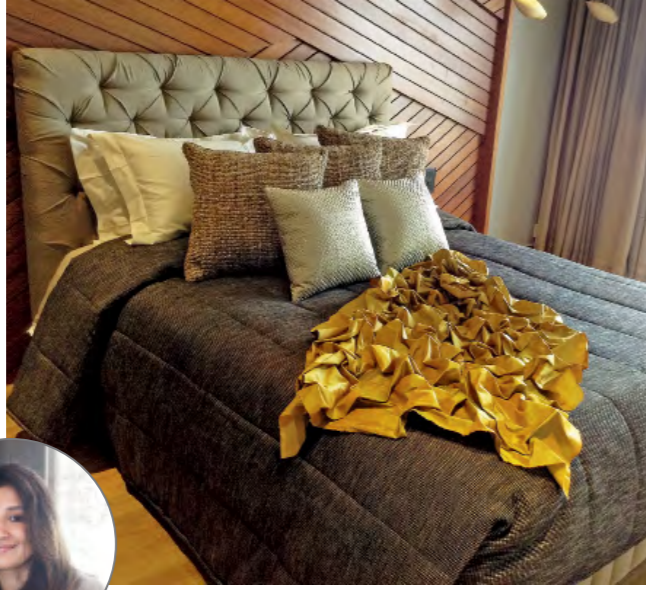
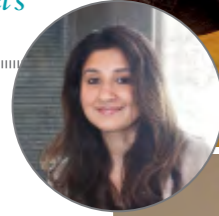


GAYATRI POPAT

Textile Designer & Proprietor
Mihika

"For 2015, I want to work towards enhancing the prevalent aesthetic aura of an architect's dream."

Textile designer Gayatri Popat is known prominently for her window dressings and soft furnishings. We love how she elevates her work in the realm of furnishings to an art form. In her words, "Rich, decorative simplicity and even sumptuous fabrics using neutral tones is integral to the architectural style and interior design of the house, is definitely going to be the flavour for this coming year."



VIVEK RADHAKRISHNAN

Creative Head & Owner Kynkyny Home

"I intend to work on entire collections and create a furniture range rather than single objects. It's a new approach, but an exciting one!"

Vivek notices a clear shift in consumer purchase with more and more clients wanting their homes furnished with products, entirely from Kynkyny. Also, as someone who isn't particularly a fan of trends, he says, "I don't follow trends. I always try to create objects that are timeless — things that I love today and will still love in 20 years. That's just my style."



SIMRAN DHALIWAL

Interior Stylist & Blogger

"For 2015, I have decided to experiment... with colours, fabrics, textures and patterns, around the home."

Simran feels, this will be a creatively-challenging year and she intends to make the most of it. Talking about her immediate plans, she says, "It starts with painting a wall that runs along my staircase, in black! I want to explore colour and pattern coordination in the same area. So think print on print and bright colours used in sync. The process of setting up or decorating a home is never complete. So we should do one thing at a time, one corner at a time and bring a room together slowly. Happy experimenting in 2015!"



SUNITA NAIR

Principal Designer, Studio Amaya

"My decor resolution is to personalise spaces."



"The New Year heralds resolution. In today's digital world, too many of our memories are stored on memory cards and Facebook walls," says Sunita. She recommends making use of the innumerable photo printing sites to order prints of one's favourite photos and use them to adorn walls. She adds, "Make your space warm and inviting with a family gallery of your cherished moments. Family rooms, stairways or dining rooms — create a focal point with a group of photos either displayed on walls or arranged over ledges. Coffee tables and consoles also are a great way to display your photos."



TARA KHAN

Creative Director, LBOF

"I resolve to dress up my coffee table. Because, honestly, nobody deserves to be put on display without a liberal dose of style and fun."

Tara suggests small and easy changes around the home in the New Year. The coffee table, for now, seems to have caught her fancy. She advises, "Start with a tray. Consider it a foundation for a chic coffee table. Buy a nice lacquered piece or simply give an existing one a makeover by adding a preppy pattern insert. Next, pile on the well-curated coffee table books. Remember, bold + bright always equals beautiful. My accessorising philosophy pivots around the principle of balancing form and function."

