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## HOME

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## The high life

This penthouse in Bangalore by interior designer Shruti Jaipuria not only maximises the views but its open and airy layout makes it perfect for a young couple.

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Ridhi Kale / India Today Home | Posted by Manpreet Kaur

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The year was 1920 and World War I had just ended. There was a mood of celebration across the globe. Many know the roaring twenties as the Jazz Age. However, what most don't know is that this era also became a turning point for homeowners. How? It ushered in the dawn of luxurious apartments on the top floor of a building that were coveted by artists and the rich and famous alike.



Custom-made lights from Ayush Kaslival

Before this, spaces directly below the roof were contaminated with soot and debris, and were therefore considered undesirable. However, as skyscrapers started mushrooming in all parts of the world, a vertical hierarchy began to be established; and so the penthouse was born. The roof top residence has been synonymous not just with life at the top but with the last word in luxury. Over the years, the enigma of the penthouse has grown, making it one of the most popular floors in a building. So, you can imagine the pressure on the shoulders of Shruti Jaipuria, interior designer and creative director at Maia Design, when she



was asked to design a penthouse on the 19th floor in India's silicon valley, Bangalore; for a young couple who loved to entertain.

Spread over 4,500 square feet, the layout of the duplex penthouse is spacious and free of clutter. "It was integral to our vision to ensure the spaces were light, airy, open and focused on maximising the views," says Jaipuria, who has given the home a contemporary design aesthetic that borrows cues from an Indian palette. Blown glass technique, marble inlays, jaali work, detailed custom hardware are some such Indian influences that have been subtly infused into the different areas.



There is great view of the city from the study

"As you enter the home, a double height volume in the formal living room greets you. There is an amber blown glass light installation formed with 40 glass droplets custom made by Ayush Kasliwal's AKFD Jaipur, each of which are suspended from the ceiling creating an awe inspiring feature. Beyond is the Bangalore skyline creating a spectacular view," says Jaipuria. As one crosses this mesmerising light installation, you notice that the formal living is connected to the dining and the kitchen. "The dining area has a copper clad wall along with mercury chandeliers that were custom made by AKFD Jaipur.



Door with handles designed by artist Dimpy Menon

The dining table is from Lignet Roset and the sheers have tree silhouettes giving the feeling that you are looking beyond at trees. A custom made crockery cabinet with a mild steel tree handle is also seen in the room," explains Jaipuria. The drama continues in the guest bedroom, with custom made wardrobes in black and white glass and marble flooring with black and white inlay. The same scheme can be found in the bathroom, where black marble with white veins sets off a Venetian cutwork mirror. Near this space is the powder room that has been created such that one wall is clad with a jaali pattern and mirror, inspired by cut work seen in old Indian architecture.



"Moving to the second floor, the amber drop lights visually connects the two floors. The study has a yellow and white colour scheme, creating a cosy area for the client to work and meet visitors. A clustered lamp along with a distressed desk gives the room an eclectic feel. A yellow door leads from the study to the TV room. The door handle is a sculpture custom made by artist Dimpy Menon," says Jaipuria. The family room opens into the balcony-cum-bar area and the two together double up as recreational and entertainment space. "The bar area has blue and white cement tiles clad on the wall with a grey wood flooring. The bar unit is made with mild steel bent in profile with a corian top; while the storage shutters are fashioned with old crinkled glass and custom made hardware designed by us. A frangipani tree and red flower creepers form part of the landscaping that gently offset the light blue walls," adds Jaipuria, who studied interior design at the Parsons School of Design.



The glass-roofed bar on the terrace

Another interesting space is the master bedroom that has a reclining bed and a painted MDF wall treatment. The handles of the walk-in wardrobe are made using metal leafs bought from bastar. Equally alluring is the 'His study' with a TV unit that doubles up as a wardrobe and a flap desk that can be opened and closed as required. "Airiness and lightness of the space is further enhanced by the light colour palette that can be seen all across the home and the soft furnishings with usage of a number sheers instead of solid curtains or blinds. Sheers with trees printed enhance the outdoor quality of the site as does the landscaping provided in every window," says the interior designer. What set's this apartment apart is not just the fantastic views or the clutter-free look, but rather the open layout and the easy going aesthetics. AT [www.maiadesign.in](http://www.maiadesign.in)