

comfort zone

LOVE LOUNGE

Her living room is a private space where she enjoys spending time with close ones.

GAYATRI RUIA, Owner, Mogra Boutique, gives a sneak peek of this corner to SAVIA RAJAGOPAL

Comfort zone:

Living room.

Area:

500-600 sq feet.

Set-up time:

Six months.

Interior designer:

"When we initially designed the room, I worked with Rajiv Saini, who's a friend and an extremely talented young interior designer. But even then, most of this is just 'me'. I've studied interior design and although I've never practised it professionally, I have ended up doing a lot of work in the office, in the house and my restaurant 'Rain'."

Special because:

"We started redoing this apartment before we had our children. So there are a lot of strange edges, which we did not factor in as a child-friendly zone earlier. We are in the process of completely making it children-friendly. This is a room we use a lot, especially the ground space. Also there's a lot of natural light and ventilation that helps. And of course the height of the room is uplifting. This is a naturally comfortable space."

Ideating it:

"We wanted to retain the strong architectural quality — the height, the old rafters which are 100 years old, the old wood and the old windows. So far, the house has worked well with a colonial look though I like a contemporary cleaner look. When I redecorate it, I will retain the warmth of the room but in a very neat way, without too many frills. I'm not very concerned with matching colours and matching a theme! I think the theme automatically works if you have an eye to put it all together."

Elements implemented:

"If I look around, there's a bit of chaos and it's a bit messy. I think my best thinking and functionality comes out of this organised chaos. I think these crazy gold chairs are extremely 'me'. They are ergonomically almost perfect — functionally and aesthetically! Not everything in

the room makes sense but it works for me. Atul (Ruia, her husband) and I don't always agree on everything but luckily, art is one thing we both enjoy. F. N. Souza is fun, it dares you. Atul enjoys art because it's a good investment! But we wouldn't pick something that wouldn't appeal to both of us. I love P. G. Dinesh's work from the south. I fell in love with the Ara nudes, hanging on the wall, which is very uncharacteristic of me. I really like the three heads by Anjolie Ela Menon. It kind of sits here proudly validating and witnessing what we do everyday!"

Feng Shui/ Vaastu:

"Not at all! I don't give it much importance, although I am aware of it through books. I certainly wouldn't alter an entrance to the room or change anything else because it's considered bad luck."

Maintaining right:

"I am not very particular that everything has to be polished and shining. As long as basic hygiene is maintained, I'm happy. My floors should be clean enough for my kids to eat off which in reality does happen! Apart from that, I'm not too fussy."

Innovating space:

"Every time we get a new painting or something new, we have to keep accommodating all the new eccentricities. I would like to do it much more but again because of time constraints, I leave it the way it is."

Guest list:

"This is like our private living space so we do not entertain people much here. If at all, it would be small dinners with six to eight people sometimes. It's just close intimate friends and family, but mostly it's just my husband, kids and me."

Best compliment:

"The flooring seems to have charmed many people because it's a little bold. Not many people would've taken a bright haldi coloured yellow Italian marble. It doesn't look like typical Italian marble. It has a strange patch of onyxes."

Defining comfort:

"It's a space you intuitively seek when you want to relax and think."



Photo: Ham Bherwani