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Unravelling the 'desi' magic

Owing to its diversity in cultural and ethnic framework, anything Indian affords versatility in home decor. Bring in varied hues, ethnic motifs or multi-cultural artefacts for that true Indian touch, suggests Bhakti Hegde

When you look to bring Indian aesthetics into modern spaces, a potpourri of eclectic cultural sensibilities and functional designs comes into play. Getting this melange right in the convenience of your home would mean application of a few simple rules: less is more, don't confine your Indian accents to a specific era or genre, and always highlight your personality in your space. Here are some more details:

When less is more

Indian designs have an innate affinity to opulence, so just a mere lampshade, if placed rightly, could sometimes accentuate the visual appeal of the room. This design sensibility of minimalism works well in modern homes.

Design quotient: Embracing colours and patterns is always the simplest formula for room elevation. There is nothing more Indian than the use of bold colours like red, orange, fuchsia, bronze, in layered fabrics or walls. From sun-drenched coloured cushions on a plain sofa, to bold hues on a singular wall can give any room an Indian ornate charm. If you enjoy a bit of splendour, then a simple wall rug as a headboard is all you need for your modern-day bedroom.

A piece of traditional furniture from your family heirloom – be it a centre table, fine

carved bed bench or a teak wall table can always find space in your chic home; keep them solo and let them shine.

Tips: While Indian accents adds high-tone glamour, and break monotony in living spaces, its functionality may not be as complementary. Hence, moderate the introduction of Indian highlights to minimal into your modish home. The size of the room and lighting in the room makes a lot of difference, so keep both under consideration.

Over the genre barrier

Owing to its diversity in cultural and ethnic framework, anything Indian, affords versatility in home decor. While purists would conform Indian motifs to a specific genre or era, a blend of multi-cultural aesthetics from different parts of the country, can be welcomed into modern living.

Design quotient: Be it through furniture or accessory, fabrics or tiles, a subtle celebration of Indian culture can be mirrored in evolving contemporary spaces. Laying a bold Rajasthani table runner on top of a Kashmiri walnut coffee table on one side of the room can embellish the space, yet keep it subtle. Warm *kantha* fabric lampshades, Tanjore paintings lining a bare white wall, use of brass accessory as a centrepiece, brings a great depth of Indian expression. If you have large room dimensions to play with, red-oxide flooring

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LOCAL FLAVOUR Warm colours are best suited for large rooms, keep pastels for the smaller ones.

can be beautifully integrated without taking away from the modern look. As a dying art, red-oxide is very unique to certain parts of the country.

Tips: Mixing and matching in case of home decor is best done when kept spontaneous, however the tendency of going overboard with stark design styles can come easy. Hence, a balance of different styles and designs is necessary without overpowering

one another. Warm colours are best suited for large rooms, keep pastels for the smaller ones. Refrain from infusing too much Indian emphasis in children's room and reserve that space for functional styles and bright motifs only.

Finding 'you' in your space

Needless to say, translating your personal style into your home decor makes your living space not only chic, but also high on comfort. Be it modern interiors or traditional homes, tastes that reflect your personality elevates the design aesthetics of the place like none other.

Design quotient: Start by understanding that you can bring together opposing design styles. Given tastes evolve with time, you might find yourself discarding accents that don't match your current flair. Evaluate before you do that, because remember some styles are timeless.

To achieve your true personality in your surrounding, ask yourself two questions – which is the favourite section of your home and what are those things (home accessories) that are an extension of your true personality.

Once you find answers to these questions, start building on your space. If your tastes and style has been influenced by Indian cultural influx, keep the balance of colours and hues in mind.

Ombre tones and pastel shades keep the Indianness intact and go well with the contemporary endosure.

Tips: There is no theory that can define your taste, throw the rulebook out and let yourself free. Give yourself the time and space to reflect upon your likes and dislikes. It is not necessary to add your style in every room, find your own space.

Indian aesthetics hold eminence in the context of home and interiors not only because of its splendour, but also its ability to habituate to changing modernist lifestyle. Bringing vibrancy, nuanced heritage, underscored by sophistication into your home, will not only allow you and your loved ones to enjoy your surroundings, but also to appreciate it.

There are so many factors that need to be considered when combining India's vast richness of colours, designs or accessories in your home. At the end of the day, it is down to the individual taste of the homeowner.

However, what cannot be argued is the end result. A visual feast of aesthetics in modern living spaces.

(The author is director, interiors, Chartered Housing.)



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