

Courtyard Living

A warm, well thought-out space, perfect for family life in the Capital

FEATURE **VANITA ARORA**
PHOTOGRAPHS **ANKUSH MARIA**



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A large veneer table with opulent upholstered seating creates a grand style statement alongside a mosaic mirror and vintage teak sideboard.

— Sarabjit Singh, Architect and Interior Designer, Villa Ortiga



A home that adheres to practical and aesthetic needs was the vision architect Sarabjit Singh had in mind while planning his own town house in New Delhi. “The space came together over a period of time wherein the entire furniture was replaced and remodelled. The main thought was to create a feeling of someplace else with emphasis on comfort,” says Sarabjit.

Attention to detail and thoughtfulness of approach are what this house tells of. While the living room is put together with furniture collected over time, the study is a colonial-inspired space named, Treaty Room. “The vintage pieces — from my grandfather’s desk to a portrait of Mountbatten — make this home a collector’s paradise,” says Sarabjit.

One glance around and you will know that nature and lighting are the two stand-out elements that make the space. “The brief was to enhance the space through creative positioning of furniture and collectibles. Being an architectural designer, I have used my own furniture collection. I also worked closely with stylist Manuu Mansheet to put together all the elements and bring out the best in design,” he adds.

The house is built around two courtyards; one opposite the dining area called ‘alfresco’, and the other hidden behind the house called ‘the secret garden’. As we wander through the space, there is a great feeling of permanence, along with a sense of being close to nature. The result is a uniquely welcoming home. ■

(RIGHT) An open greenhouse with a lush landscape and random green marble flooring creates a magical setting for alfresco dining, just off the study and living room. Faux grass, palms and bamboo groves lend warmth, texture and a tropical feel to this space.



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When it comes to designing a home, I like an eclectic mix of style and comfort. Styling and setting up are the new forms of decor with furniture, finishes, art, collectables, fabrics and flowers being key elements.

— Sarabjit Singh, Architect and Interior Designer, Villa Ortega



The owners have a huge collection of art that ranges from Indian contemporary to vintage lithographs. These can be found peppered across the house. What joy!



SARABJIT SINGH

Architect and Interior Designer, Villa Ortiga

After being specially selected by Charles, The Prince of Wales, to study at his premier Architectural Institute in London in 1992, Sarabjit Singh continued his architectural and design education at The Oxford School of Architecture. In 2011, he established Villa Ortiga, a design studio that has covered a wide spectrum of design, styling and space-planning projects from villas to corporate offices.



A luxurious baby suite is brought alive with a Sanderson safari wallpaper, white washed wardrobes, custom-made cushions and linen-upholstered seating.



My teenaged son's room is inspired by travel. Blue blends with beige and wood to create a warm comfortable room. The US flag throw and Union Jack motor bring in the element of fun.

— Sarabjit Singh, Architect and Interior Designer, Villa Ortiga

