



Pay heed to ideas by three interior designers from Delhi before you decide on elevating your bachelor or bachelorette pad

# SPRUCE UP YOUR SANCTUARY

ANJANI CHADHA

**W**HEN someone says the words 'bachelor/bachelorette pad', one instantly visualises a messy apartment with tacky furniture, dirty sheets, and overstuffed shelves. Such generalisation has mainly been perpetuated by Bollywood films like *Go Goa Gone* and *Pyaar Ka PUNCHNA* and does not always hold true. Abodes of single men and women can be far more stylished all while keeping 'comfort' in mind. A thoughtfully-curated home embodying one's inherent style makes for a perfect space to hang out with friends, spend quality time with your partner, or even to relax without company. We speak to three interior designers who share tips to get the vibe right at your apartment.

**Get, set, innovate**

Everything from the colours of your walls to rugs and even the fittings play a role in setting the right vibe at home. Sarabjit Singh, founder and architectural designer of Vasant Vihar-based Villa Ortiga—a multidisciplinary boutique architecture and interior design firm—feels hues add "character and positive energy at home". On the other hand, Devika Khosla, creative director, The Works Interiors—a New Rajinder Nagar-based interior design firm—shares the importance of experimenting with décor accents so that the space doesn't look boring after a while. "Plants make a space look welcoming. Other accessories like art, rugs, etc. determine the final ambience." Multifunctional furniture pieces—a dining table that can be used as a makeshift working table, a sofa that doubles up as a pull-out bed, etc.—can also be good options for those who struggle with space.

When it comes to décor, light

arrangements are vital as well. "Meticulous design and a clever orchestration of lights can transform the space into a harmonious and functional environment, which can be a visual treat. Clean edges and uniformity of walls mixed with lighting, hardware, and many such details can form a unique environment, hence creating perfect harmony," suggests Sanjiv Singh of Sanjiv Singh: Spaces + Objects, a Sultanpur-based interior design firm.

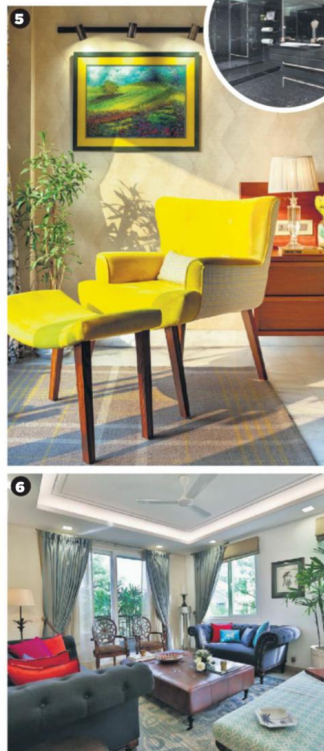
**Add that personal touch**

A dream home has no set standard, just the fact that it should feel more 'you'. If you want your space to feel comfortable, it is best to keep it personalised. Devika says, "The advantage of a single's pad is that one can follow their own style without having to worry about anyone else's taste. For that, it is important to start by identifying one's inherent style." Figure out what suits your persona before you go ahead and remodel your home.

Another hack to add that personal touch is to display one's specialised and curated collection—books, art pieces, or anything else—rather than burying them in a closet. "Select pieces that inspire you and reflect your personal style—from the doormat to the wall décor. These could be souvenirs collected during travel, family pictures, or trinkets too," shares Sarabjit.

**Function over everything**

The size of the space will also impact a number of decisions one makes for their bachelor pad, however proportions must not be considered a limitation. Devika feels a minimalist look always complements a tight space. "That would create a sense of openness. This could include furniture with straight lines and monochromatic colours," she concludes.



Design suggestions for bachelor and bachelorette pads by: (1 & 5) The Works Interiors; (2 & 4) Sanjiv Singh: Spaces + Objects; (3 & 6) Villa Ortiga



**SARABJIT SINGH**, founder, Villa Ortiga

I highly recommend that a single person's apartment be in colours that reflect their personality. Doing so adds character and brings positive energy into the home. The right vibe comes with ambience, which includes soft lighting.



**DEVIKA KHOSLA**, creative director, The Works Interiors

The advantage of such a pad is that one can follow their own style without having to worry about anyone else's taste. For that, it is important to take off from identifying one's inherent style.



**SANJIV SINGH**, founder, Sanjiv Singh: Spaces + Objects

My general philosophy is that spaces need to be curated. Design should enhance your space. It should talk to you, it should work for you. A space should not feel boring.

## Good acting fails to save this subpar highway crime film



Queen Latifah and Ludacris in a still from 'End of the Road'

MRINAL RAJARAM

**MOVIE REVIEW**

**END OF THE ROAD**

**CAST:** Queen Latifah, Ludacris, Mychala Faith Lee, Shaun Dixon, Beau Bridges

**CREATORS:** Millicent Shelton

**STREAMING ON:** Netflix

**RATING** ★★☆☆

**T**HE sad part about *End of the Road* is that Queen Latifah, Ludacris, Mychala Lee, and Shaun Dixon act decently in a predictable film. It starts off fairly well and continues to engage for the initial twenty-five minutes, but the sticky road trip takes a nosedive with its first wrong turn, signalling the premature unravelling of *End of the Road*. You can't mask bad writing with believable acting performances, unfortunately.

The premise of the film, though bordering on cliché, has us on board with the hopes and dreams of the black American family at the centre of the narrative. Brenda (Queen Latifah), an ER nurse, is forced to give up her home in LA and move to the Deep South. She may not wish to uproot her children, Kelly (Lee) and Cam (Dixon), but the financial burden from her late husband's prolonged illness has left her with no choice. Her not-so-successful brother, Reggie (Ludacris), joins them for support.

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At first glance, they don't strike you as close-knit. But the banter and fights just go to prove how united they are. What the film also makes you feel is empathy. The family hasn't deserved half of what life has thrown at them, yet they continue to fight the good fight. This sentiment is embodied by Queen Latifah's character, making her the moral centre of this household.

Up until their first brush with racism on the freeway, the film does okay. A detour of 85 miles takes them into a redneck town. The chase sequence from the gas station, after Kelly flips off two lewd, young white men, is well conceived. Brenda's maturity comes to the fore when

she chastises her daughter for showing poor judgement and holds her brother back from confronting the redneck duo. The following scene, in which she steps out to address the men bothering them with their obstructing truck, marks an intense moment. She bites her lip, putting her personal safety and dignity on the line, and asks what it would take for them to move their vehicle. "An apology would be nice," comes the response. When she goes over the words, a caveat is added, forcing her to say, "I apologise for endangering your white lives."

This charged back-and-forth speaks to the still-rampant racism prevalent in the American south. While such a scene is expected, it's the treatment that comes up trumps.

This juncture marks the film's end of the road. From this point on, prepare yourself for one predictable cliché after another. Caricatures for evil characters and moments of conflict that turn your stomach. It is understandable to have some predictability in a film set in a redneck town, but it is the execution and writing that ensure it gets slotted into the category of trashy highway crime fare. Even if *End of the Road* had added to the 'unity and strength of family' angle with a half-decent genre script, it would have been enough. The end result makes you feel bad for Latifah, Ludacris, Lee, and Dixon. Their acting prowess could have been put to good use elsewhere.

**SHOWBIZ**

### KRITI GEARS UP FOR ANURAG'S ACTION FILM

KRITI Sanon has started her prep for Anurag Kashyap's upcoming action flick. Under Anurag's guidance, Kriti has started acting workshops, dialogue and language coaching for her next. According to sources, she apparently portrays one of the fiercest female characters ever in Hindi cinema. The sources add that "it is an emotional film; vengeance unleashed by Kriti's character is never seen before on screen". The film's shooting begins in November. Kriti also has *Bhednya*, *Ganapath*, *Adipurush*, and *Shehzada* in the offing.

—Express Features

### MAKING LITTLE THINGS COUNT

TISHA Upadhyay (inset) is a fan of movies made by Japanese animation film studio, Studio Ghibli. While it is difficult for her to choose one, she mentions *Spirited Away* is special to her. "The amount of details Hayao Miyazaki [Japanese animation director] puts into his movies is unreal. He has this hold over visuals, which make his audiences feel inspired," says the 29-year-old Noida resident who was introduced to Studio Ghibli by her college mentor when she was experiencing a creative block. "As an animation student back then, I would run out of motivation and inspiration. How Ghibli's movies have inspired my work today is something that I never saw coming. In my work, I have started to enjoy adding little details that might not be visible to many people but can make the illustration a lot more than it would have been without that tiny dot."

**GET, SET, TRY**

### Imaginative stories, striking visuals

ANJANI CHADHA

COME people will tell you that animated films are meant for children while others will argue that these hardly touch upon 'real' issues. However, such films are works of cinema (and design) that are not just big on emotions but also visuals. Be it the age-old Disney princess series or more recent films that feature 3-D designs, animated movies—more often than not—impact you in some way or other. Three artists from Delhi-NCR suggest their favourite animated films that can also give you great design lessons.

### EXPERIMENTS THAT MATTER AND INSPIRE

ILLUSTRATOR and art director Tushar Madaan (inset) attributes his inclination towards art to the animated films and series—*Papaye*, *Cars*, etc.—he has watched while growing up. Amid the wide array of animated content he has consumed till date, *Kubo and the Two Strings*, a 2016 American stop-motion animated action fantasy film developed by animation studio Laika, stands out. "Few people are experimenting with stop-motion in animation. If you see the film, you will be able to tell the difference if they have done 3-D or stop-motion animation, such is the work," shares the 30-year-old, adding how the characters feel like friends to him. This film has inspired Madaan to add learning stop-motion to his bucket list.

### BHUMI, ARJUN REUNITE FOR UPCOMING MOVIE

ACTORS Arjun Kapoor and Bhumi Pednekar, who have recently wrapped shooting for an edgy thriller *The Ladykiller*, have signed another film together. The actors have left for London to begin work on this film. According to sources, the project is set to be directed by Mudasar Aziz. While there have been no confirmations about this project, the industry has been speculating that this is a project to watch out for because of an interesting cast. Arjun and Bhumi will be shooting in and around London for about 30 days straight. The film will also be shot in Mumbai.

—Express Features

### OF CULTURES AND FAMILY TIES

AST Delhi-based visual artist Tanya Sarkar (inset) recommends fantasy film *Coco* (2017). "The colours, characters, and story play an important role as to why it is so loved," says the 25-year-old. Inspired by the Mexican holiday Day of the Dead, *Coco* (a still from the film, right) follows the story of Miguel, a 12-year-old boy who is transported to the Land of the Dead. The character seeks his great-great-grandfather's help to return to his family. "The makers have paid a lot of attention to the cultures shown in the film. Though *Coco* is very colourful, it never seemed too much to me. Every frame is well-balanced and heavenly," she concludes.

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