

closeup  
WHAT'S IN!

Water-proof purses and handbags. Stay dry and stylish at the same time.

# LifeStyle

closeup  
WHAT'S OUT!

Heavy denim. In this weather, they take hours to dry.



The first step was to remove the Thai aluminum sliding door connecting the verandah to the living room, and replace it with a decorative wooden folding door. The sliding door was placed at the end of the verandah, instead, leaving the walkway open.

The homogenous floor tiles had to go, and in their place, came rustic brick bonding tiles. We also placed limestone on both sides of the wall. The greenish grey colours of the stone helped lend a natural look to the area. In keeping with the mood, we installed a curvy wooden false ceiling with lover bar, spot lights and hanging lights were placed in that ceiling. We also placed floor lights to highlight the plants and wall lights for the paintings on display. These light effects turn the place dramatic and gorgeous.

The focal point of this Terra Garden is a small fountain. We made a small water dropping arrangement. Water drips out from a terracotta tile arrangement on the wall, into a sleek granite tub. The sound of water, the breezing of the fresh air, green plants and wide sky turn the verandah a real relaxing place.

Some of the most soothing sounds come from nature. Surely there is nothing more peaceful than the rustle of leaves, the patter of rain, or the chirp and chatter of birds. Music- both vocal and instrumental truly is food for the soul. With this in mind, we kept an electrical socket for a tiny cast player.

We also placed a unique sitting arrangement opposite of the fountain. The wooden lover pattern low seaters are ideal for reading books or listening to music on rainy days. The verandah always eases the stress of life's petty annoyances and frustrations in concentrate or redirecting the flow of chi through our home.

Finally, merge your décor with the natural surroundings by incorporating some art into the scene. Beautifully grained wood carving, clay sculptures and evocative landscape paintings and prints can open the window to the imagination. Even if you are not an artist, you can collect photographs of nature for your decor. Fresh flowers and aromatic herbs complete the picture, and you get a beautiful green haven to enjoy when you really need a pick-me-up.

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Photo Credit: Hasan Saifuddin Chandan

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**T**HE world beyond our windows is so easy to forget. When you connect with nature, you also connect with your spiritual self. The month of Ashar is currently ruling the scene. Rain is a constant visitor, dropping in at any time, any moment without warning. The different seasons that come and go all have their special colors, and the color for monsoon is definitely a bright green. It is nearly impossible to feel relaxed in a room that is too hot or too cold, so simply changing the setting on the thermostat can make a significant difference.

In this week's feature, we will discuss a verandah. The apartment where our featured verandah lies, is located in Gulshan Avenue-1 beside the Mohakhali Lake. It's a very big apartment, almost 4,500 sq. ft, and has a spacious living room with a verandah. The beautiful lake view is really enjoyable from that corner. The verandah in particular, being squarish in shape, and having a sleek walkway, promised to be an excellent sitting space. We decided to convert into a 'terra garden'.