

Star LIFE Style

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Art and décor *for* a cosy home

BE AHEAD OF THE PACK
CURTAIN TRENDS TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR **P3**

UNDERSTANDING THE ART OF DÉCOR
EXPLORING 2 DECADES OF ART WITH NAZNEEN HAQUE MIMI **PC**

ACT OF GIFTING SIMPLIFIED
FIND THE PERFECT MATCH AT CHONDON EXPRESS **P12**

PHOTO: SAZZAD IBNE SAYED
SPECIAL THANKS TO NAZNEEN HAQUE MIMI

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#PRESS RELEASE

Choosing the right colour palette for interiors

Colour plays an important role in enhancing people's moods, be it a happy one or otherwise. It is not the colour itself, rather its use, combination, and the accompanying décor which affect people more. As colours have such significant roles, everyone should be more cautious about the colours they pick while decorating their interiors – be it the home or office space. To create an alluring and premium look in the interiors that will linger on, it's always wiser to have some idea about the right colours to choose from an array of options and on taking care of the painted wall.

When it comes to choosing a colour for your interior wall, it could turn out to be quite tricky as not all of us really know how a particular colour may affect the whole ambience of the interior. Understanding how much natural light actually reaches the interior wall is an important starting point. Remember that light alchemically changes the outlook of a wall – both in good and bad ways. So, while choosing a colour palette, one should take factors such as the amount of light the interior wall gets and the directions of the light source into account. For example – white and neutral colors are famous for reflecting any other color. So, when you are choosing neutrals, the best situation is that your wall



receives clean natural light.

Moreover, if your wall space is too small and you want it to look larger, bright colours will do the trick as these reflect more natural light. Also, take the colors of the furniture or any other pieces that are around the wall/interiors into consideration, as the perfect mix and match of colours will give a cozy feel and a sophisticated look.

Once you are done with the selection and the paint is finished, the most important thing is that you take care of the wall properly. There are some premium brands offering painting solutions that provide greater ease of maintenance and durability. For example – Berger's Luxury Silk not only adds a pleasing

soft sheen to the wall but also allows the user to maintain it neatly. Luxury silk painted walls can be rinsed with water. If needed, you can even prepare a solution of water and soap and then clean the painted wall to revive the luster.

Luxury Silk gives complete freedom to creative minds to select the colours they want to be a part of their lives. Boasting a rich collection of colours ranging from blue, brown, green, grey, pink & peach, purple, white & cream, and yellow & orange, these come in a variety of shades. Well, don't forget that the colors you choose will speak for you and your personality. Choose carefully!



Exciting offers at Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden

Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden is offering some exciting deals for Bangladeshi residents. Customers can come and enjoy a wide variety of delectable local and international dishes priced at Tk 3150 ++ with 'Buy 1 Get 1 Free,' available with selected bank cards at Water Garden Brasserie for dinner buffet.

Not only that, guests can also look forward to the Summer Getaway room packages, consisting of different kinds of staycations. The packages consist of four types with one-night accommodation at Superior Room starting from Tk 5,900++ to Tk 14,900++ per room per couple, including meals on full-board basis.

Radisson Recreation Center is also giving away 40 percent discount on monthly memberships with offer valid till 31 October, 2021.

A 50 percent seating capacity in the restaurants will be observed in accordance with government instructions and regulations for social distancing. All meals are prepared in accordance with Radisson SGS Safety Protocols and in compliance with HACCP standards.

For dining reservations and details, please dial +8801730089130. For room reservations and details, please dial +8801730089149, +8801730089159.



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The curtains present in our home certainly make the home décor look better along with giving us protection from dust, direct sunlight, and guarding our privacy. There is no denying that finely selected and fitted curtains can greatly help in adding an elegant dimension to the interiors; hence, let's explore the latest curtain trends.

FLORAL

Multi-coloured motif and floral prints look very attractive and rejuvenating. For this reason, floral curtains are the best-suited option for you if you want to add colour and vibrancy to your living room or bedroom. This type of curtain makes windows the focal point of a room, so it is better to choose floral prints or motifs in a darker palette.

NEUTRAL SHADES

If you are looking for curtains that are soothing to the eyes, opt for neutral shades such as off-white, sage, mustard, stony grey, or warm greens. Such colours blend really well with the interior of a room; so you do not have to worry much about matching curtains to the furniture or wallpaper of the room. Nonetheless, as neutral colours provide a refreshing aura to any type of room — a bedroom or a nursery are better suited for such colours.

VELVET CURTAINS

The fabric velvet is always associated with something rich and heavy. And you can use velvet curtains to bring luxury into your living room. Velvet, also known as blackout curtains, are essentially made of thick, woven and tufted fabrics and this is why these are very useful in blocking out dust and other pollutants. But keep in mind that velvet curtains can gather dust and microorganism very easily, so these require repeated cleaning.



SHEER CURTAINS

Heavy and thick curtains can make a room look comparatively smaller. Then the solution? Pair them with sheer curtains. This type of airy curtain can greatly elevate a room's ambience, and the result is more incoming light as well as the creation of the impression that the rooms have more height.

A simple DIY tip — you can add string lights along the curtain rod for decoration.

ABSTRACT CURTAINS

If you are an earnest admirer of abstract paintings and drawing, then you will surely enjoy enhancing the beauty of your home décor with abstract patterned curtains. Abstract curtains are usually designed with patterns such as spirals, faces, animals, objects etc.

By Ayman Anika
Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed
Special thanks to Nazneen Haque Mimi

#DECOR

LATEST CURTAIN TRENDS of 2021

Home décor indisputably reflects our taste and personality. Therefore, decorate your humble abode with curtains that suit your preference the best, but purchase curtains while being mindful of the design style, furniture, colour scheme and wall of your home.

Choosing the correct fabric for sofas

Choices of fabrics are probably considered one of the least concerning factors while buying a sofa. But they are just as important as the design, cushions and the pillows. There are a lot of options out there and it can get confusing sometimes.



house? Will there be children running around randomly? Is there any allergy concern in your family? Is there any clumsy person in your house who likes to eat on the sofa? — there just seems to be too many questions but you need to think them through.

Once you have settled on the important questions, comes the question of plain or patterned fabrics. Plain fabrics will wear bright colours well but because of that, they will also stain rather easily. Intricate patterns will do a much better job of masking the small stains. Which means you will have to decide before choosing a fabric — how much maintenance time are you willing to put behind your sofa? There is no hard-and-fast rule when it comes to choosing a pattern or colour. A well thought combination of plain and pattern can be innovative and eye-catching.



While choosing a fabric for your sofa, you will need to answer a few key questions that will guide you towards a choice that is right for you. The first question is quite obvious. Do you want a natural fabric or a synthetic one? Keep in mind that each has their advantages and disadvantages.

For natural fabrics, you can choose from linen, wool, cotton, silk and of course, leather. Leather is one of the most durable options for a sofa and it's sophisticated as well, but it will cost you. The only limit you will have with leather is that it will somewhat limit your array of colours. Cotton will be practical but linen will offer a rich texture that's difficult to ignore. Wool is durable but can feel scratchy so carefully choose before you take your pick.

If you are looking for a fabric that is budget friendly, easy to clean, and still

stylish, synthetic is what you are looking for. Fibres such as polyesters are no cotton but they are certainly cheaper. Nylon, acrylic and olefin are some of the other choices available. Microfibres can be woven or non-woven and are notable for their durability.

There are more questions to answer before you can move on to picking colours and patterns. Are there any pets in your



If you are trying to pick a fabric for your sofa, don't just ponder on the colours and patterns. Since it's not done frequently, take your time and do it well — do it thoughtfully.

By Ashif Ahmed Rudro
Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed
Special thanks to Nazneen Haque Mimi

◆ HOROSCOPE ◆



ARIES
 (MAR. 21-APR. 20)
 Business deals will go off smoothly. Abrupt action will cause difficulties with relatives. Keep your opinions to yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



TAURUS
 (APR. 21-MAY 21)
 Make plans that include your loved ones. Progressive methods at work will be to your liking. Re-evaluate your motives. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



GEMINI
 (MAY 22-JUN. 21)
 Arguments won't help. Impress others with your generous nature. Catch up on pending correspondence. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



CANCER
 (JUN. 22-JUL. 22)
 Pay attention to new opportunities. Pleasure trips will be therapeutic. Voice your opinions at work when needed. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



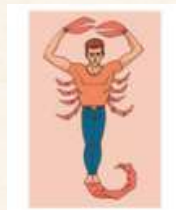
LEO
 (JUL. 23-AUG. 22)
 Restrictions will be suffocating. Don't be deceived by sweet talk. Spend time with family. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



VRGO
 (AUG. 23-SEP. 23)
 New interests will captivate you. Be careful when lending money. Take care of any pressing health problems. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



LIBRA
 (SEP. 24-OCT. 23)
 Problems with peers is apparent. Relationships can end if you are pushy. Don't let anyone burden you. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



SCORPIO
 (OCT. 24-NOV. 21)
 Think carefully before acting. Look for ways to make extra money. Dream a little this week. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



SAGITTARIUS
 (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)
 Take advantage of upcoming opportunities. Opportunities for romance will be plenty. Meet new friends who provide mental stimulation. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



CAPRICORN
 (DEC. 22-JAN. 20)
 Take a long hard self-assessment. Changes will make life more harmonious. Don't take the brunt of a bad situation. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



AQUARIUS
 (JAN. 21-FEB. 19)
 Get sound advice on life problems. Expect changes in your financial situation. Don't get talked into get-rich-quick schemes. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



PISCES
 (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)
 Plan to visit loved ones. Discuss plans for the future. Be lenient as long as the work gets done. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



#DECOR

Should you go for an all-white décor

Rooms with a lot of natural lighting usually tend to be the ideal candidate for all-white walls and ceiling. Natural light supplements a room's ambience with comfort and warmth, making it crucial for any room with all-white decor. When white interior decoration is executed right, it possesses a distinct combination of chic and grandeur. On the other hand, uninformed design choices can easily lead to a room appearing sterile and dreary.

Here are some tips to keep in mind while planning out the colourless room of your dreams, without compromising its liveliness.

Add depth with complementary whites

We often forget that there are more shades of white than off-white. Each colour on the spectrum has a white version of it. To add more depth to a room, you can use a palette of distinct but harmonising hues of



white together. A couch with the faintest shade of blue can be paired with pillows which exhibit barely noticeable hints of grey. Using the lightest shades of different colours will help you forge a white palette which holds depth and gradation.

Layer textures

The incorporation of a wide range of striking textures can help substitute the lack of colour. Be it with the inclusion of a velvet upholstered bed, ivory wood panelled

walls or an alabaster sisal rug, textures can forge the appearance of colour without the inclusion of any real non-whites.

Contrast with accents

It is inevitable to end up with a dull all-white room without the use of contrasting accents. Add sparse splashes of colour with accents in shades which complement the white. It may be through the addition of a summery rattan basket, a coastal coloured throw or a jewel toned chevron rug.

Accents can also be in the form of metal. Brass appliances and fixtures go well with warmer toned white rooms, while chrome accentuates cooler ones. If you prefer an earthy feel, replace metal accents with wood. Make sure to use accents sparingly so attention is not diverted from the white.

Make it more organic

Indoor house plants like bold green calatheas and striking red fittonias not only add natural accents to white rooms, but they also add liveliness in the most literal form. If indoor gardening is not your thing, artificial plants can still add a metaphorical breath of fresh air to a room which feels barren.

By **Tasfia Ahmed**

Photo: **Sazzad Ibne Sayed**

Special thanks to **Nazneen Haque Mimi**



#DECOR

Interior designing with NAZNEEN HAQUE MIMI



An interior consultant, author, columnist, globetrotter and so much more, Nazneen Haque Mimi's whirlwind start in décor and designing sparked from a simple shoe fair arranged by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Fast-forward 26 years and here we are, mesmerised by the enchantment created by the spaces Mimi touches and all that she brings to the table.

Star **LIFE** Style



Having studied in sociology and law before zeroing in on interior designing, Mimi is a consultant worth her salt. For this statement to retain any merit, we must uncover those 26 years.

Getting a start from her husband's graphic and design firm, Journeyman, in the early '90s, Mimi now boasts a stellar repertoire of projects under her belt. Trained by international programmes, Mimi has travelled the world and been to Nepal, Japan and Singapore to learn her craft. Having decorated over 200 residences, countless medical centres, banks, offices and even cafes, Mimi has made a name for herself in turning drab, plain spaces into homes, retreats and chambers inspiring creativity, even history.

If you're familiar with the first-ever Bangabandhu Corner installed to grace the halls of Government Titumir College, you've already been in the presence of a visionary interior designer. Identifying herself as a Bangladeshi woman

above everything else, Mimi's ode to her roots and her heritage are what keep her grounded. A true testament to this is her work on museums such as the Toshakhana Museum and the National Museum to which she has been dedicating the last decade of her life. What fuels her, however, is her late mother's memory.

"I'm very closely connected with decorating. I learned the art of décor and the intrinsic meaning behind it from my mother. From organising the bed so that the bed cover and then the duvet follow the sheets in that specific order to organising the spice racks in the kitchen, I learned the tricks of the trade from her. Her practices, ideals and legacy are what I've kept alive in my own life that I now share with others through my craft," recalls Mimi.

"My mother loved any medium with life, specifically plants. And, so, as an interior consultant, I believe without green, you can't have a home," Mimi

further shares.

Few would oppose Mimi in her stance; blobs of green in leaves and plants distributed around a home is a fantastic way to uplift any four walls. Take the liberty to go down to a nursery this weekend to pick up anything green that can be bottled or potted. Use the open spaces in your balcony and the emptiness in front of a large window and dress these spaces in the most refreshing and soothing way possible. Reflect a pastoral, back-to-nature lifestyle with vertical gardens and hanging plants and vines dripping to the floor. This is sure to change the whole vibe of the place!

You can even take a more heavy-handed approach and add tints of green to the ceiling to create a protected atmosphere or hues of the shade in the walls to contrast/complement furniture and the overall space. Mimi's expert services and consultations as an interior designer can help you revamp your house and transform it into a true sanctuary.

Another quick makeover that Mimi swears by is the addition of history and paintings to any room. "Your house is an empty bowl if no paintings hang on its walls," she opines.

Allow us to define: art tells a story. It offers character and talks of the owner's philosophy and ingenuity without ever uttering a word. With its bold and eccentric strokes and patterns, a painting can breathe life into a boring room. Seeing as to how art makes or breaks it, you can either choose to decorate your haven around a central masterpiece or layer the elements of your room to finally add a focal canvas that exudes a "finished" look from the space.

Whatever you choose to do to your space is an individual decision. And it's this individualism that Mimi targets to highlight in every piece for which she's enlisted, "However you decide to decorate your space, you must think about consistency and harmony. You don't want, for example, texture of the wallpaper to

offset the design of the carpet. You want complementary styles rather than harsh cacophony in your space and this is what I stride to bring out every time."

Money may well buy expensive things but it certainly doesn't warrant beauty. The smallest tweaks in your home like a different polish for your furniture, addition of texture in the walls or even layering accessories like curtain holders, tassels or a lamp with a unique pattern can change the entire look of a room. Without changing your furniture, think about recycling them to revel in the creativity that's sure to be unleashed. If you fall shy of changing your space, you call always fall back on Mimi. Her experience is sure to carry you through.

By Ramisa Haque
Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed
Model: Nazneen Haque Mimi and
Sohana Mahmood Odri
Website: <https://journeymaninteriors.wordpress.com/nazneen-haque-mimi/>



#DECOR

Making suitable lighting fixtures for your room

Lighting often becomes an afterthought when we embark on room makeover projects. It has the tendency to be glossed over even though it holds the capacity to be both harmonising and transformative.

Here are lighting trends to get behind to elevate or revamp any room.

STRIKING METAL

Rose gold has given way to brass in the world of interior design, and this is especially noticeable with lighting. Brass has made its presence felt in the lighting world, with brass sconces and lamp shades rising in popularity. Lamp shades and pendants crafted almost entirely of brass make great additions to rooms aspiring to incorporate more of an art-deco or industrial feel to it. Marble or wood bodied lamps with copper embellishments are a subtle alternative to full brass pieces.



decor to be meticulously orchestrated and uniform, nostalgia inducing lighting is slowly picking up traction. Although lava lamps were once constrained to a teen's wish list, they are more adored by older age groups at present. If your room feels like it could use a boost of personality and novelty, lava lamps are your go-to.

If you want a mature variation of lighting which still adds the novelty element, you can try blown glass pendants or fixtures in colourful shades. While they are better suited for living rooms and dining rooms, they make for safer options.

By Tasfia Ahmed

Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed

Special thanks to Nazneen Haque Mimi



ORGANICALLY NATURAL

Natural materials such as bamboo, wicker and rattan have become a desired option for both lighting and furnishing. Dramatically sized rattan fixtures can add a beachy element to living rooms, making them appear more coastal and bohemian. Less theatrical variations of this include rattan string lights or wicker floor lamps, which can make bedrooms feel more grounded and homely.

COLOUR BURSTS

With people spending more time indoors due to the ongoing pandemic, colourful bold lighting which has become more commonplace. When you stay in for too long, muted and uniform colour schemes can start to feel suffocating.

Lighting fixtures and wall sconces with

brightly painted finishes are a good way to add a burst of colour. Additionally, you can place smaller lamps adorned with patterned fabric shades throughout your room. Be it a blue seashell pattern or muted florals, patterned fabric shades are a unique way to sprinkle in colour.

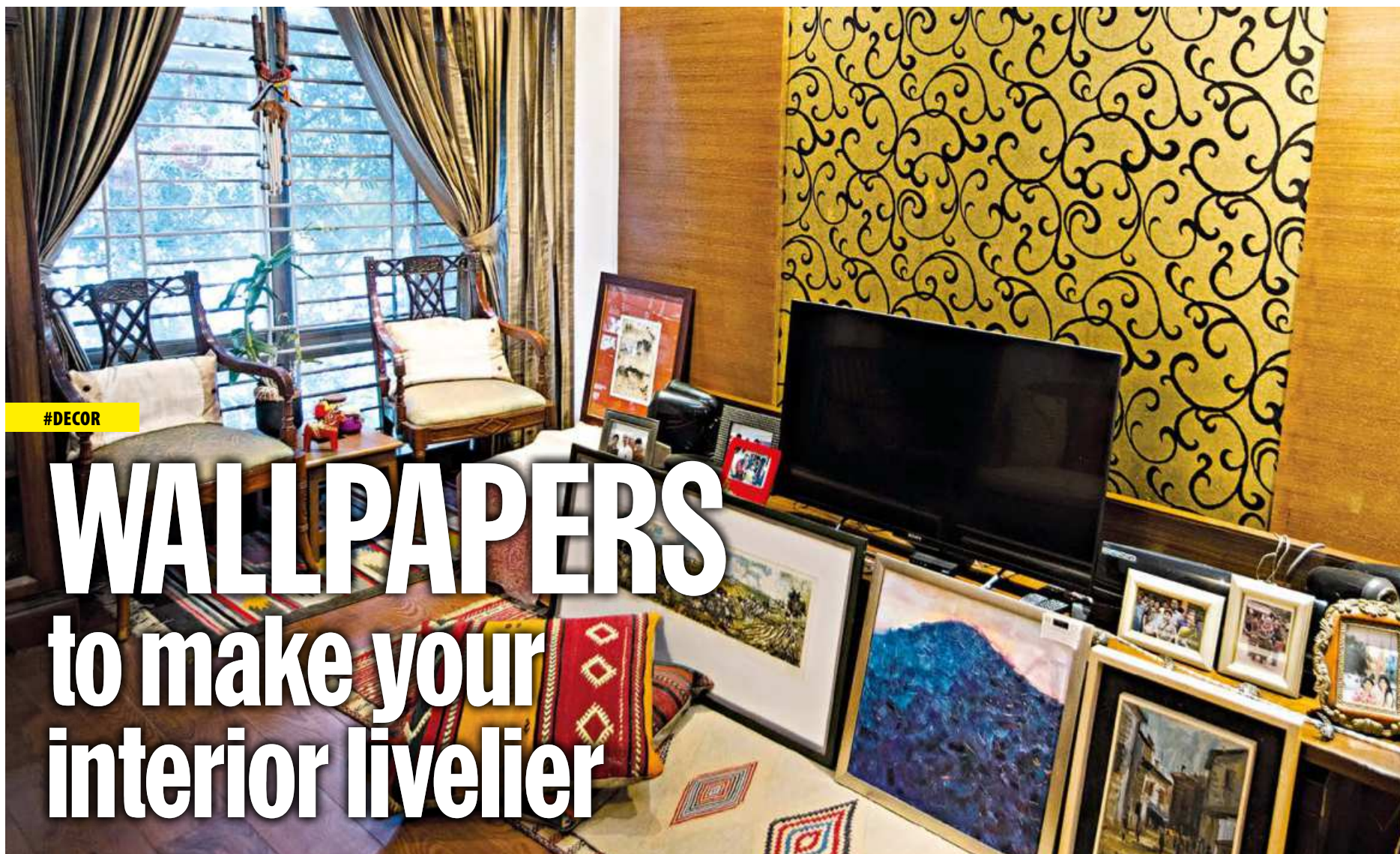
THE EMPIRE'S COME BACK

Sometimes a room just requires lighting which takes the backseat, and empire lamp shades are the perfect example of this. Empire shades go with almost every decor style, which helps it hold onto its staple label. If you want your lighting to appear grand-millennial, try pleated cream empire shades. For a glam twist to the classic lamp shade, go all black.

ECLECTIC FEEL

With a decline in the need of interior





#DECOR

WALLPAPERS to make your interior livelier

There is no doubt that the interior of our home has an immense impact on our health and well-being; so, why not ensure a much livelier home décor using rejuvenating and colourful wallpapers.

simplified geometric designs.

LINE ART DESIGNS

Wall art is a popular concept — so is the line art drawings. Nowadays, line art designs and abstract Picasso-style portraits are gaining tremendous popularity as they not only add an

select maximalist wallpapers. This type of wallpaper was previously considered a little extravagant; however, maximalist wallpapers are making a very bold and strong comeback. Therefore, go ahead and showcase your braveness utilising brightly coloured and intricately patterned maximalist wallpapers.

WALL MURAL

One cannot help but be mesmerised while looking at a mural. And wall murals are simply refreshing to look at. Unlike wallpapers, wall murals can be altered and designed to fit one's taste and these are very easy to remove. Whether that be forest, mountains or a world map, make your home more vibrant by choosing your preferred wall mural.

TROMPE-L'ŒIL

Do you love looking at optical illusions? If yes, then Trompe-l'œil is the perfect match for you as it literally translates into 'trick of the eye.' Trompe-l'œil wall coverings add a three-dimensional effect to a wall by creating the illusion of a larger space, nonetheless, such wall coverings look very much realistic while looking up-close.

It is undoubtedly an individual choice whether to go for the traditional wall paint or relatively hassle-free wallpapers. But be sure to know that fine quality wallpapers can last more than a decade. Hence, be mindful of your investment.

By Ayman Anika
Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed
Special thanks to Nazneen Haque Mimi



TEXTURED

If you want to give your walls an illusionary effect, opt for textured wallpapers. This type of wallpaper is gaining popularity for its three-dimensional depth — as it virtually emerges out as a 3D shape. Both fabric and wallpaper can be combined to create a beautifully textured wall surface.

GEOMETRIC

Geometric shapes and designs are very eye-catching, and because of that, expressive geometric prints are trending currently. How much we had loved to fiddle with different geometric shapes during our childhood! And now, we have a creative way to express our playful nature on a real wall using diversely structured and



aesthetic touch to our home décor, but also look very beautiful and self-expressive on the wall. Both printable and online purchasable line art drawings and portraits are available on various websites.

MAXIMALIST WALLPAPERS

If you are feeling bold and want to add traces of drama to your interior, then

FUSION GALORE

SHAHEDA YESMIN

Proprietor of Jewel's Kitchen boutique school



Culinary Curator

BRAISED SPARERIBS IN PINEAPPLE SAUCE

Ingredients

- 1 tsp young peppercorn
- 1 tbsp coriander root, minced
- 4 thumb size garlic cloves
- 400g beef spareribs
- ¼ cup ketchup
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp seasoning sauce



- 1 tbsp sugar
- 1 cup pineapple, sliced
- 2 cups chicken stock

Method

Make a paste with the coriander root, garlic, and white peppercorn. Cut the spare ribs into 2-inch pieces. Mix all the ingredients, including the ketchup and sugar, with the beef. Set aside for 2 hours.

In a pot, simmer the pineapple and the chicken stock over low heat. Once the pineapple is half done, remove from the stock and keep aside. Add the marinated spareribs in the stock and cook until tender. Add the pineapple and cook until tender. Serve with cooked rice and cucumber, tomato on the side.

STIR FRIED SEAFOOD WITH CHILLI AND HERBS

Ingredients

- 3 garlic cloves
- 3 coriander roots
- 7 birds eye chilli
- 3 tbsp oil
- 100g fish fillet, cut into bite sized pieces
- 1 medium squid (200g; cut into bite sized pieces; soak in rice vinegar for 5 minutes, rinse)
- 7 (100g) shrimps, peeled and deveined
- ½ cup shredded wild ginger (gra-chai)
- 2 sticks peppercorn
- 1 big red spur chilli, sliced thinly
- 1 tbsp fish sauce
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp sugar
- ½ cup sweet basil

Method

Pound garlic, coriander root, and chillies in a mortar until fine. Add 3 tbsp vegetable oil in a wok, set the heat to medium-low and fry

the garlic mix until it becomes yellow-brown, but not burnt. Add the seafood in the wok, turn the heat to high. Then add gra-chai, peppercorn, big chilli and cook until the seafood is done. You can add a bit of water to prevent burning. Add fish sauce, soy sauce, sugar and basil, stir everything together. Turn the heat off when it looks ready.

BAKED FISH WITH HERBS

Ingredients to marinade the fish —

- 250g dory fish fillet
- 1 tsp coriander root paste
- 6 kaffir lime leaves, chopped
- 1 tsp oyster sauce
- 1 tsp light soy sauce
- 1 tsp fish sauce
- ¼ tsp white pepper powder
- To make the bed —
- 4 lemongrass stalk
- 2 long slices of galangal
- 4-5 kaffir lime leaves
- Aluminium foil



Ingredients for sauce —

- 4-5 green or red chillies
- 1 green spur chilli
- 8 garlic cloves
- 5 shallots
- ¼ tsp sugar
- 2 tsp fish sauce

To serve with:

- 1 tsp saw leaf



Coriander, thin sliced
Boiled cabbage and long beans
Decorate with tomatoes, on the side

Method

Marinate the fish with coriander root, kaffir lime leaves, oyster sauce, soy sauce, fish sauce, pepper powder for about 10 minutes. To make the sauce, skewer the green chilli, green spur chilli, shallot and garlic and place over a grill. Then peel off the chilli skin for making a paste. Season with fish sauce. Mix well.

In an aluminium foil, make a fish size long bed of galangal, lemongrass, kaffir lime leaf at the bottom then spread out the marinated fish fillet on the top, bake at 200C for about 15 minutes. Serve the fish with the paste and boiled side vegetables.

WELCOME A HEALTHY START

fortune

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- ✓ The perfect balance of unsaturated fat keeps your heart healthy & strong.
- ✓ Rich in antioxidants that protect against diseases.

#TRAVEL

Ocean Bliss

I had not realised how therapeutic the ocean could be until I stood on its soft-wet sand. Atlantic waves broke at my feet and washed away the lockdown fatigue that had been harbouring inside of me.

Rehoboth Beach in Delaware is a popular tourist destination for people living on America's East Coast. I understood how crowded this was going to be from all the out-of-state number plates on cars ahead of us. So crowded it was that after a half-hour searching, we finally found a parking spot that was nearly a mile from the beach. However, we trust our good old legs come what may; walking is a yes for us under most conditions!

If you are the kind of person who likes a quiet beach then Rehoboth probably will not be your top choice, especially if you want to visit in-season. As for me, it was our first beach trip in two years and after having



friendly tourist destination. It is summertime and the schools are closed, which means that lots of families are flocking to the beach to enjoy the weather.

Like I said, Rehoboth can be very crowded during the peak season, so all around us, there were sea lovers of all ages. The younger ones were building sand castles, the teens were surfing or playing catch with American football, while the older ones were simply

spent more than a year at home, I did not mind the crowd. In fact, it was the crowd which gave me a feeling of normalcy. Having said that, with the Delta variant spreading quickly and 20-25 percent of the US population still refusing to get vaccinated, we just do not know if this normalcy is here to stay or not.

Rehoboth is what a buzzing seaside town should be like in summer. Lots of ice cream shops, restaurants, little boutiques, arcades, and gift stores make Rehoboth Beach more than just a beach, it is a full-on family-



basking in the July sunshine and watching Atlantic waves lapping on the shore.

Those who claim that the sea air carries

the magic to calm one's nerves are so correct! Before I stood facing the Sea of Atlas, I had not realised how much power it had to invigorate me. The last year had been difficult for most of us on so many levels. As I stood on the sand with my eyes closed, I let my hair down and inhaled the salty air. Waves broke at my feet and sand slipped beneath them. The waves carried my stress and fatigue back to the ocean. I felt refreshed and a lot lighter, inside.

A trip to the beach is half-done without ice cream or some other cold delight, so we had lemon-flavoured Italian ice and frozen custard. Their initial cooling effect in the mouth was satisfying under 34° Celsius.

For dinner, we wanted to try out a new place. As we window-shopped restaurants and looked at their menus, a place by the name Mason's Famous Lobster Rolls caught our attention. The restaurant prides on the freshness and quality of its lobster, which comes straight from the waters of Maine, the New England state most famed for its

lobster.

Each classic lobster roll comes with hearty chunks of lobster meat, a little bit of mayo and lemon butter; it is served chilled. The idea is to use as few ingredients as possible to bring out the real flavour of the crustacean. Less is more when it comes to great cooking! Each roll cost us \$19; the price seemed to me a bit too high for a roll the size of a typical hot dog bun. I learned later that the restaurant was experiencing a record-high lobster price because of the pandemic.

Our day trip to Rehoboth Beach was short yet rejuvenating. I think I needed that soothing sound of rolling waves, that feeling of sand slipping beneath my feet, and that expanse of cool blue waters as far as my eyes could catch sight of to re-realise that there should be no giving up on yourself or life. I returned home that night, feeling happier and lighter.

By Wara Karim
Photo: Wara Karim

এখন
ফাস্ট ওয়াশ
ডিটারজেন্ট পাউডার
১ কেজির সাথে
১ টি ৫৭০ লব্ধীসোপ ফ্রী!

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DETERGENT
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১ টি ৫৭০ লব্ধীসোপ ফ্রী!

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#REVIEWS

Chondon Express: The ultimate gift shop

Renowned designer Chandana Dewan starts with her latest passion project "Chondon Express." An e-store and an add-on service line of the designer retail outlet, Chondon, the gift shop philosophises over the depth of emotions a simple gift is enchanted to carry.

It's easy to spot a liar from any crowd; simply raise the question of who loves presents and he who says no is the culprit, caught red-handed! An exchange entirely enamouring, gifts are a bipartite consignment, one that works so brilliantly because everyone has something to give and even to the person who has everything, gifts matter.

If gift-giving is your language of love, a dreadful present can break hearts and detach strings. Receiving an eyesore of a bouquet and a wreck of a cake can leave you ranting for hours, fretting over how little the gift-giver understands you, how less they care, or how you can't even take a



a riveting trove catering to every occasion under the sun.

Drop by an old friend to catch up after centuries, clad in casual athleisure and carrying the perfect gift in hand: Coffee Connoisseurs from Chondon Express! Containing a French press coffee maker and a fragrant bag of roasted coffee beans, let the afternoon rays melt into the night while you gorge on coffee and conversation.

Invited to a housewarming? Walk in with

decent picture of it to post on social media; it's too ugly!

On the flip side, the right gift can be the ultimate gesture to connect with someone. A mason jar with hand-written notes, a carved candle scented with lavender or a thoughtful insignia polished to catch the sun can all capture a heart for eternity.

"I love to express myself creatively through gift-giving. Investing a bit of time and effort to wrap a gift in a nice, patterned box and maybe tie a symmetrical bow with a ribbon round it and, finally, finishing with a few kind words in a card makes a huge difference, as opposed to gifting whatever however. Seeing the big smile, a good gift brings on someone's face is how you know the thought you put into it mattered greatly," muses Dewan.

And, so, Chondon Express breathes joy into this give-and-take and tempts you to think beyond the fleeting moment of just handing a present over. It entices you to stop and smell the roses and it does so via



are the epitome of care packages. Whether you want to convey "I love you" or "I'm sorry," just the process of putting together the hamper will prove therapeutic for you and be an expression of love for her.

Gift-wrapped boxes for him like Groomin' Essentials and Always Dapper are also available at Chondon Express. Packed with satin scarves, chocolates, colognes, shortbread and more, these gifts will remind your significant other how special he is and how much he means to you.

More hampers and cards for corporate occasions, baby showers, anniversaries, birthdays or just any Tuesday are available at Chondon Express. The liberty of personalising your hampers by adding/taking out items to better fit the likings of the receiver is what sweetens the deal even further and makes shopping at this e-gift store a unique experience. "Add to cart" and upon checkout, an expert all-female fleet specialising in aesthetics from Chondon Express will take care of the rest.

With the economy in a downturn and finances being tight, buying a present does not have to cost an arm and a leg. The simplest things carry the heaviest weights and once you begin giving, the happiness of it will catch you like a disease and make it impossible to stop.

a congratulatory smile and a weave basket like "Festivity." With cheese, crackers, Ferrero Rochers and butter cookies, this basket is a host's delight and a sure-fire way to score brownie points, making it an absolute twofer!

Surprise her for no reason with a self-pamper basket like Lather and Relax or Sleep Tight. Filled to the brim with handmade soaps, candles, mists, face towels and slippers, these wicker hampers

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Photo Courtesy: Chondon Express
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