

HOUSE OF THE MONTH



The informal dining room seats six and is overlooked by an Italian pendant light

# GRAND MANNER

Jimmy Mistry's  
Mumbai home is a  
study in contradictions

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The living room is replete with Lladró figurines, which Jimmy enjoys collecting. His favourites are the rare, limited edition pieces like the Red Dragon. The Parsi influence can also be seen here with tributes to Faravahar on the upper level

Mistry often likes to design a space around one piece – for example, this room is anchored around a horse-shaped lamp. It sits alongside a piano, which adds to the sheer opulence of the room





A lot of attention has been paid to the detailing of the bars. There is an aquarium at the base of this one and above the counter hangs a transparent shelf to place glasses; when lit up it gives a fairytale effect



The formal dining rooms seats 22 people simultaneously. The highlight of this mammoth space is a dramatic, horse shaped crystal chandelier, which is suspended in a corner of the room, right next to the window

*"I enjoy putting in a lot of research in all my projects and that's why everything comes together. I feel things should blend into each other but there should also be an element of surprise"*



The informal living room is used for entertaining only close friends and family

As my car crossed Mumbai's Parsi colony I was completely awed at the site of Della Tower, which makes one feel as if they have stepped right back into the past when Persian buildings reigned over the cityscape. The attention to detail is so minute that even the front columns have been kept at 60 feet, as per the original architecture of that era. The inspiration of ancient Achaemenian design as well as the Zoroastrian faith is very obvious right from a first glimpse of the building.

Jimmy Mistry, the 40-year-old architect behind this über-luxe construction, lives in the top seven floors. And his house is a study in delightful contrasts – modern interiors set off against a traditional frontage for one: "The initial thought was to create a palatial exterior and have the interiors reminiscent of a royal palace. But as the building progressed I decided to go in for a contrast and have modern interiors," explains Mistry.

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The master bedroom continues the black and white scheme, enlivened with a hint of red accents. The study table was designed by Jimmy himself – it comprises of a set of old drawers that have been deconstructed and put back together in an interesting formation before being painted in bright red hues



The master bathroom has everything from a walk-in closet to a Jacuzzi, mood lighting and even a pantry



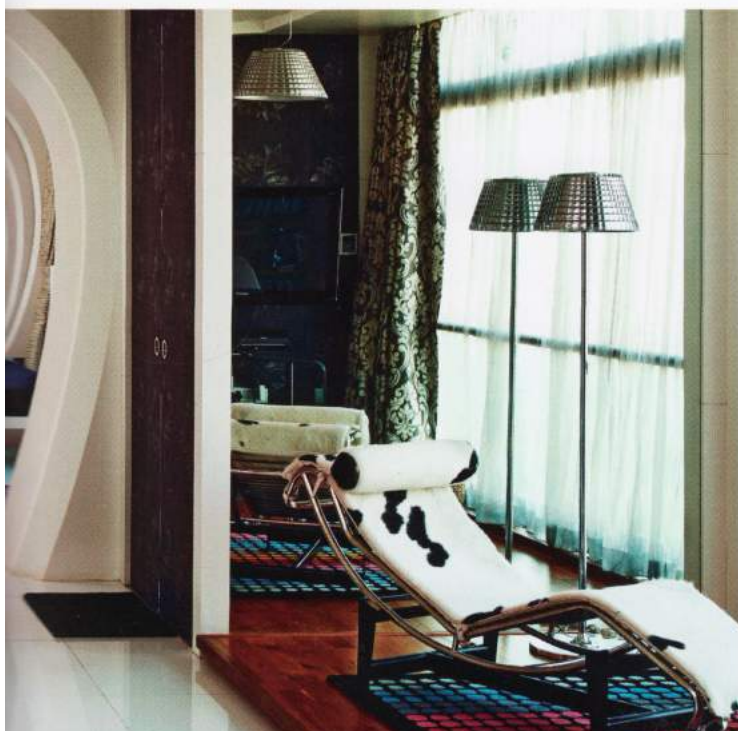
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Jimmy did not want the children's room too look too kiddish. Its been expertly planned in such a manner that though it is a long space with no visible partitions, each of the three children have their own space as well





The study area is also a part of the children's room. This way they learn how to co-exist with each other



*"I did not want my children to have completely separate rooms or get into the habit of staying behind locked doors, which restricts the sense of living as a family. Since they cannot shut anyone out they have to learn to adjust and deal with each other's moods"*

There is a small television area in the children's room, complete with lounge chairs



The facade showcases dramatic architectural details such as these wall carvings. This is again in keeping with the Zoroastrian religion, which has been a major influence throughout this building



The terrace has an artificial garden. Most of the outdoor furniture has been flown in from Bali with a few pieces sourced from Saffron in Mumbai

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“In every space there are certain things which end up being pre-decided for you. This is easier to control when you are building a structure from scratch but even then it does exist... like the natural light,” says Jimmy. And it’s a measure of this architect’s skills that he surmounts all obstacles. “I enjoy putting in a lot of research in all my projects and that’s why everything comes together. I feel things should blend into each other but there should also be an element of surprise,” he says. Another element of the house is that everything is automated and easily accessible – there is enough storage and provision for an impromptu party of 150 people, complete with ice cream coolers. It’s, as we said before, a house that revels in contradictions – the blend of a relaxed family home co-existing with the perfect party space being just one of them!

In the initial plan the house was not meant to have a swimming pool. But once it was constructed, there were a plethora of surprises – like music radiating inside the water when one is swimming and a floating acrylic bar that lights up at night

