

CELEB HOMES

Sufi singer Begum Yaman Khari's home is all about walking down memory lane, remembering the important people in her life



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WHEN SMALL IS BIG



Studio apartments are smart homes that require intelligent use of space. Vandana Ramnani finds out how families are living life kingsize in compact units



▲ A red and mauve sofa-cum-bed fits perfectly in Bhowal's studio apartment

A tastefully designed studio apartment in the heart of Delhi known more for its sprawling bungalows?

Yes, it's been made possible by architect Nilanjan Bhowal. Equipping his 600 sq ft barsati house with everything that a modern unit requires was a big challenge, especially considering the limited space. Making efficient use of every inch of space was the key to the challenge. Being an architect himself, Bhowal got down to his drawing board to achieve the best he could, for himself.

"Space can never be an issue if designed well. I've used paintings on white walls to make them stand out. White walls help create a sense of space. A table divides the open kitchen and the living area. It doubles up both as a bar counter and the dining area," he says.

The outdoors flow into the indoors. The balcony is almost an extension of the living area. With no walls to divide it, the floor seems endless. This seamlessness, with use of collapsible glass doors, helps create that illusion of space.

Where furniture is concerned, sofa-cum-beds do the trick. There are two in the living area - one red and the other mauve. The idea is to highlight as much tile space as possible.

Bhowal believes that rooms can look bigger and brighter when minimal furniture is used and maximum floor space is visible. The sofa-cum-beds in his apartment ensures that barely one-third of the total room space is occupied.

Nothing occupies a fixed amount of space. Chairs fold up, a settee becomes a bar stool and also doubles up as a breakfast chair and a side table. A ceiling-mounted projector in the living area makes the wall a stark white screen - which comes to life when the colours and sounds of a movie fill the house



▲ In this 900 sq ft Mumbai apartment, highlighter tones offset white walls

The dance of warm white lights against vanilla walls greet you as you enter the never-ending dining and living space - something that's definitely a big achievement in this tiny Mumbai apartment.

The big and little details synchronise to create this sheer sense of space. It's clean and uncluttered with a glass partition and cream upholstery making the place look bigger. Lights and pieces of art drag your attention to the plain white and highlighter walls. The wooden furniture too makes a definite but

understated statement. The beautifully designed coffee table is the centre piece of the living area. Most of the furniture is of low height keeping in mind the Indian lifestyle with the designs classy yet simple.

The wide floor plates set apart one section of this house from the other. The modular kitchen is large and scores on functionality. After all what makes better sense for a compact apartment than to have a wide and modular kitchen?

A subtle yet profound spiritual essence also prevails. The mandir that was once part of the kitchen area now opens up to the living area. This was a special demand from the apartment owner's mother, says architect Asit Karekar of AUK Design Studio, who designed the apartment.

The biggest challenge while designing the living area in this apartment was to have maximum number of seating areas and ensuring that people could walk through easily. The bedrooms appear large due to the clear footprint that has been achieved by ensuring that the wardrobes sit pretty inside earmarked niches.

Inside the room, dark tones offset white walls giving a highlighter-like effect. The high point of the rooms are the cappuccino paint walls that make the rooms appear spacious.

WELCOME HOME

