

INDIA
TODAY

HOME

JANUARY 2019



THE 2019 TREND REPORT

FROM DECOR TO ARCHITECTURE,
YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S HOT IN
THE WORLD OF DESIGN



DRESS UP

FIVE SETTINGS USING INNOVATIVE FURNISHINGS

COLOUR CODE

HOW TO USE LIVING CORAL IN YOUR INTERIORS

RNI No. DELENG / 2006 / 20557. Not for sale. To be circulated free with India Today in Mumbai, Delhi & NCR, Chennai, Bangalore and Kolkata. Supplement to India Today issue dated January 28, 2019.

Curved furniture
and solid hues in
textiles will be
big this year



Photograph by EDMUND SUMNER

SMART DESIGN

The central courtyard in a Delhi home keeps the space well-ventilated (left); architects Manit and Sonali Rastogi (below)

BUILD ON THIS

From sustainable architecture to creating culturally rich spaces, a look at key architectural trends for 2019

By **SONALI** and **MANIT RASTOGI**

India is developing rapidly today; our country's urban population is projected to grow from 30 per cent to 50 per cent over the next two decades. Our cities, however, are in the state of an "urban emergency," and face diverse challenges—from infrastructural inadequacies to pollution and climate change. If we are to create a sustainable future, architecture will need to address the following.

RESOURCE OPTIMISATION

It is imperative to understand that sustainable architecture can mitigate environmental impact only as long as it is affordable and widely accessible. Resource and energy optimization, therefore, are crucial to sensible design.

URBAN DILEMMA

With increasing urban density and paucity of land resources, there is a need to look for solutions that

allow our cities to expand, not implode. High-rise developments are undoubtedly the way to go, but it is important to ensure that these new buildings ingrain themselves deeply into the existing city fabric, from an infrastructural as well as socio-cultural standpoint.

THE GREEN DREAM

The following simple steps can help create a net-zero footprint.

- Insulate walls and place openings on the north-facing side instead of the west to lower the need for ACs.
- Create an effortless flow of spaces with deep, generous verandahs.
- Encourage rainwater harvesting and reuse at the community level.
- Green roofs to reduce storm water runoff, minimise interior heat gain, and conserve energy.
- Plant trees to reduce dust levels



and cool the surroundings.

Today, we can take what we have learnt from building with limited resources over centuries and from the mistakes of the "architecture of excess" of the West. We can then leapfrog into an architecture that is holistically sustainable, environment-friendly, and responsive to economic, technological, and socio-cultural contexts. An architecture that is global, yet rooted in the local.

Sonali Rastogi and Manit Rastogi are architects and founding partners of Morphogenesis, an award-winning architecture and urban design practice.

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