A modern Indian home is an expression of a person who is a global citizen but is equally rooted in the Indian tradition, says Sonali Rastogi

SONALI RASTOGI

GLOBAL MEETS LOCAL

Namrata Kohli

A modern Indian home must do away with ornate and over-the-top choices. The overall presentation of objects should be in such a manner that even though they may be from diverse genres and styles, they should almost have a "conversation" in the space they sit in, and not dominate each other. That is the golden rule followed by Sonali Rastogi, Founder Partner of design firm, Morphogenesis. She recently authored a monograph 'Morphogenesis: The Indian Perspective, The Global Context'

KOHLER
Presents

htcity

BEAUTIFUL HOMES SEASON III

Powered by

Honeywell
AIR PURIFIERS

How do you perceive a modern Indian home?
A home to me should and always have a way of reflecting the personality of the inhabitant. To me as a designer, what's really interesting is to try and understand 'what is a modern Indian?' A modern Indian is someone who is global, but is also deeply rooted in the Indian tradition. It is this complexity of personality which when well expressed, results in a suitable home.

Which articles would you perceive as good examples of modern Indian décor?
Modern Indian home decor is one that is not specific to, or coming out of a certain tradition only or a certain region only, because modern Indians see themselves as an active component of a global population. Even if all the objects are Indian, the stylistic nuances are global. For example looking at an open plan kitchen-diner, it's the norm in the most advanced western cultures. At the same time it is very regional as Indians have always eaten in or just outside to their kitchens. Another interesting example is the day beds and jhulas, which are very much part of Gujarati culture. While we have traditional modes of using this furniture, the expression today can take on a contemporary flavour and make them look like thoroughly modern objects.

Which are the must-have elements of Indian design that a home should have and what should one do away with?
I think in India, we must have craft incorporated in our home design. All of us directly or indirectly, are somewhere rooted in the culture of 'made by hand'. It's also a heritage we have inherited. It is also something which in most countries in the developed world, is inaccessible today. And what we see as commonplace is an ultimate luxury in most parts of the world. In my opinion we must incorporate craft for all these reasons. We can let go of over-the-top stuff.

What contemporary elements would you definitely recommend?
One of the biggest modern day concerns we have is the energy crisis. Hence how can one be more sustainable, consume less, more responsibly. The design of the home should be such as to be living in sync with nature and using passive techniques to minimise heat gain and encourage inside-outside living. In terms of sustainabe products, wherever possible, use reclaimed material. I'm very happy to use live edge wood which has become very trendy and also has minimal wastage. We have a lot of Indian woods that have unique characteristics which are much more renewable. It would be nicer if people move away from the traditional use of Burma Teak to woods like Jamun and Mango whose grain lend beautiful nuances to the object. Where hardwood is a must, I would recommend the use of Sheesham over Burma Teak, which is a depleting resource.

htcity@hindustantimes.com

INSIDE OUTSIDE LIVING:
Proper ventilation, access to fresh air and oneness with nature are attributes of a good home. Notice how the sense of extra space injects energy, positivity and life into the house

PHOTOS: MORPHOGENESIS