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INDIA
TODAY

HOME

SEPTEMBER 2025



**IN
CONVERSATION**
WITH ARCHITECT
SONALI RASTOGI

DESIGN IDEAS
10 MICRO
IMPROVEMENTS
TO MAKE

INSIDE HOMES
IN MEERUT,
MUMBAI AND
CHENNAI

THE FESTIVE PRELUDE

GET YOUR INTERIORS READY BEFORE THE CELEBRATIONS

VERSATILE LIVING

A low-seater sofa doubles as seating for both formal and informal use and partitions the room, while a piano nook occupies an otherwise overlooked column bay, in this penthouse in Delhi

cover story
Design

SPACES THAT ADAPT

True flexibility comes from multi purpose rooms that thrive on great proportions, natural light and a baseline not defined by trends

By AKSHAT BHATT AND DEEKSHA GULATI

Photograph by JEETIN SHARMA

A multi-functional room should not be thought of as a space that performs several functions simultaneously. Remember, it is more about creating a robust and timeless spatial framework that can accommodate changing patterns of living. The starting point is the architecture itself. Good proportions, natural light, ventilation and a sense of openness that creates a space that can support different ways of inhabiting it. Rather than designing a room around a prescribed set of activi-

ties, create an environment that can adapt as the needs of its occupants change.

This also means resisting the temptation to over-design. Timelessness comes from getting the fundamentals right, using materials and details that age gracefully rather than relying on elements tied to a particular moment or trend. The architecture should have enough strength and simplicity to remain relevant as the furniture, technology and lifestyle of its occupants evolve.

Within that framework, we like to think of the interior



Akshat Bhatt (top) is the principal architect and Deeksha Gulati (below) is an architect with Architecture Discipline, a Delhi-based multidisciplinary, award-winning practice www.architectediscipline.com

FLUID FORM

The linear layout of the rooms in the Delhi penthouse creates adaptable pockets of space through transitional gestures (previous page); layering allows for flexibility and ease in this apartment in Camellias, Gurgaon (below)



as layered rather than fixed. The more permanent elements such as floor, walls, ceilings and millwork form the backdrop. While rugs, art, drapes, furniture, objects and decorative lights add warmth, personality, and variation. These layers can be changed or rearranged without altering the underlying space. This is particularly important in a home because a room rarely has only one identity. The same space might be a workspace during the day, a place for reading in the evening and a setting for hosting at night. It doesn't necessarily need to physically transform between these uses. The room can transform through occupation, light and the elements within it.

Lighting plays an important role in creating these shifts. Natural light establishes the room's character during the day, while decorative and ambient lighting can alter its atmosphere after dark. During Diwali, for instance, lamps, candles and decorative lights can bring a completely

different warmth to a room without changing its architecture. Storage should similarly be considered as part of the overall design, allowing everyday objects and technology to be integrated or concealed when they are not needed. This helps maintain a sense of calm while keeping the space adaptable.

This approach also has a sustainability argument. The most sustainable space is often one that does not need to be redesigned every few years. Durable materials, considered detailing and adaptable interiors allow a home to evolve through easy, smaller interventions rather than repeated renovation.

Ultimately, flexibility is not about making everything movable. It is about creating enough freedom for a space to accommodate different ways of living. The architecture provides continuity, while light, furniture, art, textiles and the objects of everyday life continually add new layers to it.