

metaphor

August 2025 | Issue Number 03

DESIGN-BUILD

Welcoming The
Season of Joy

Transform Your Home for
Every Festive Moment

ECO-FRIENDLY DECOR &
FESTIVE HACKS

Organo Ibrahimipalle: Echoes of Ancestral homes



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Dear Readers,

As the first bursts of festive anticipation light up our hearts, we are reminded of the magic that this season brings into our homes and lives. The months ahead are a cherished time of joy, togetherness, and tradition, where gatherings, whether big or small, become a celebration of everything we hold dear.

Design plays a remarkable role in these moments, shaping the settings for our stories and lending color, comfort, and meaning to every ritual. This year, as we infuse our homes with warmth, let us also adopt an eco-conscious approach and make sustainable choices, honoring our planet while upholding tradition.

Whether it's a locally sourced festive table, a sunlit corner bursting with natural flowers, or a room that glows with upcycled accents and laughter, our choices turn houses into warm, welcoming havens.

In this special issue, we explore meaningful decor, new-age styling, and traditions reimagined for a world that values connection and sustainability. May these pages inspire you to celebrate joy, cultivate togetherness, and create beautiful, lasting memories, all while making conscious choices for a brighter tomorrow.

Warmly,

Meena Murugappan

Director, Metaphor Interiors

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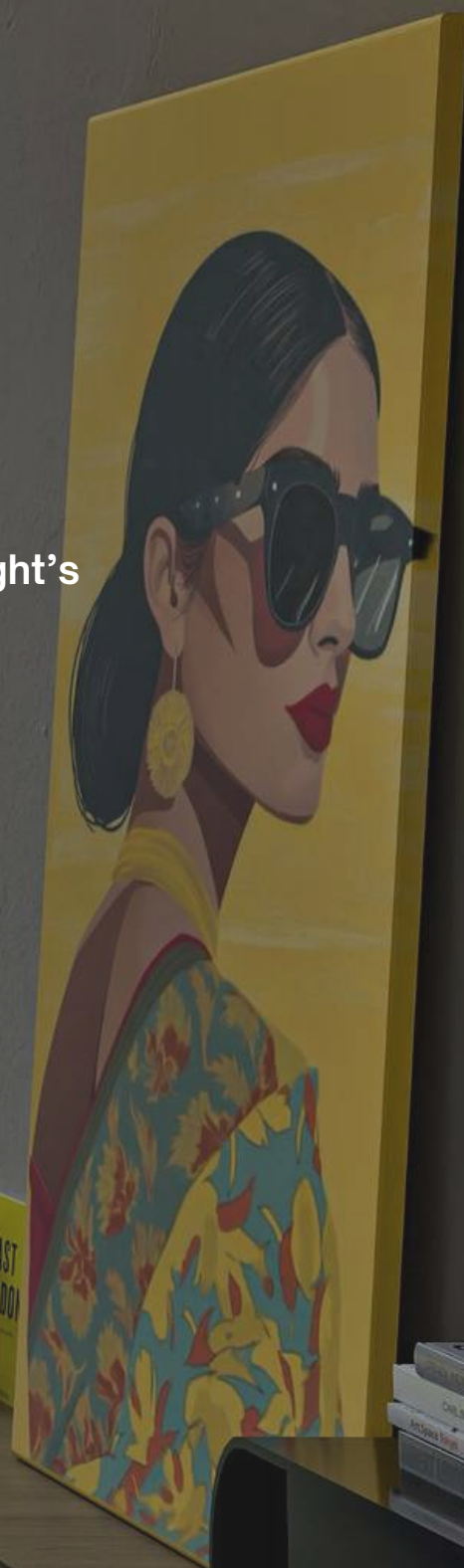


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As we lift our hearts in worship to our gods, hoping for prosperity and happiness, let's also remember to appreciate Mother Nature for the gift of life. She enables us to celebrate, to enjoy a life full of festivals and joy.



Trends



Opinions



Decor & Styling

TREND

of the Season

As the monsoon festive season falls ahead of us, make sure your home feels inviting in new colors, patterns, and materials that reflect both tradition and a modern flair.

This edition of our *Trend Tracker* brings you the latest in furnishing, decor, styling, and the season's must-have palettes and finishes.



1

Make a Statement

Eye-catching, bespoke pieces in your home become instant conversation starters—think sculptural side tables or vibrantly patterned chairs. Layer your old heirloom cabinet with playful accessories showcasing individuality while honoring heritage.



2

Mindfulness

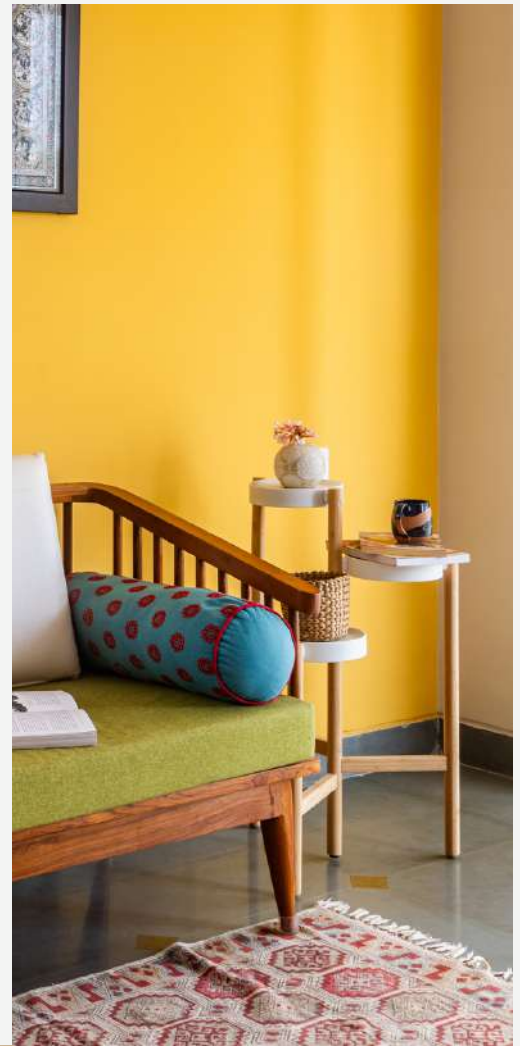
Being eco-conscious is the season's biggest statement. Embrace decor and furnishings made of natural, sustainable materials—rattan, jute, wood, and handloom fabrics. Choose upcycled crafts, clay idols, and reusable serve ware for stylish, planet-friendly gatherings.



3

And It's Called Yellow

Say hello to luminous yellow, turmeric, chartreuse, and apricot tones, these hues radiate positivity and instantly brighten any room. Use them boldly on accent walls, cushions, or painted decor objects to bring the joy and energy of the season indoors.



4

Florals All the Way

Floral patterns bloom this season in maximalist layers, mixing large-scale florals on walls or curtains with daintier flower prints on throws, bed linens, and tableware. The effect is lush, eclectic, and perfect for vibrant celebrations.



5

Indian Artistry

Incorporate regional crafts like ikat, khadi, chanderi, and block prints for cultural authenticity and handmade charm. Artisanal details like embroidered cushions, handwoven rugs, or ethnic motifs—highlight the richness of Indian design in a refreshing, aesthetic way.



Antharam Home
Photography by The Social Arch

FEATURE HOME





ORGANO IBRAHIMPALLE

Echoes of Ancestral Home



The *Organo Ibrahimipalle*
home is designed with an
understanding of Indian families,
where architecture becomes a vessel for
memory and tradition.



The Design Philosophy

This residence honors the gentle **rhythms of multigenerational living** while embracing contemporary sensibilities. The design philosophy centers on **creating spaces that breathe**—where light, air, and nature flow seamlessly through thoughtfully planned interiors.

At its heart, the home accommodates the **practical needs of Indian families**: a ground-floor bedroom ensures comfort for elderly parents, while a flexible fourth room adapts to evolving needs as a home office, meditation space, or visiting family quarters.



*The reassurance of cool stone underfoot on sweltering afternoons...
the familiar comfort of polished wood...
and the subtle character of handcrafted surfaces...
every design choice is aimed at evoking a sense of nostalgia.*



A Typical Chettinadu House

The architectural narrative, heavily inspired by traditional Indian homes, unfolds through a striking double-height central space, where a strategically placed skylight creates a luminous focal point above an integrated water body. This vertical drama is balanced by intimate human-scaled details: deep window ledges that invite lingering with a book or teacup, built-in wall niches that eliminate clutter, and thoughtfully rounded stone corners that prioritize safety and warmth.

Traditional elements weave through contemporary layouts with ornate pillars adorned with brass detailing and carefully curated artifacts that honor cultural heritage. The courtyard becomes a breathing lung for the home, framed by openings that channel natural breezes throughout the interior spaces. Whereas the bedrooms transform into personal sanctuaries, each positioned to capture the day's changing light patterns.





Materials That Hold Memory...

Natural stone flooring anchors the design vocabulary. Kota, Tandur, and hand-cut granite surfaces bring back the impression of ancestral verandas while maintaining contemporary relevance. These materials stay naturally cool and develop distinctive patina over time, requiring minimal maintenance while offering maximum authenticity.

Solid timber appears strategically in wardrobes, seating nooks, and statement pieces like the teak four-poster bed that commands one of the bedrooms. Mild steel, powder-coated in restrained black, provides structural poetry through courtyard railings and cabinet hardware—details that borrow from temple aesthetics while maintaining clean contemporary lines.

The material palette prioritizes wellness through non-VOC paints, warm-toned wooden laminate cabinetry, and natural textiles, including cotton upholstery and jute rugs. Brushed metal trims soften rather than glare, while fluted wall panels introduce subtle rhythm without demanding attention. Each material choice reflects a commitment to durability, comfort, and the quiet beauty of everyday living.





How to celebrate joyfully and mindfully



Festivals are the adult equivalent of summer vacations. It's when everyone gathers, spirits are high, and families reconnect over shared memories and new moments.

As kids, we counted down to celebrations for sweets, gifts, and fireworks. However, as we became more self-aware and environmentally conscious, we understand how some rituals harm nature and wildlife. But that doesn't mean we stop celebrating altogether. Why not celebrate with joy while being responsible at the same time?

Here are five ways to celebrate eco-consciously without sacrificing an ounce of fun.

Embrace Natural Colors

Whether it's Holi festivities or creating rangoli patterns, synthetic colors harm both skin and the environment. Chemical powders often contain copper, iron, lead, and other elements that cause skin irritation and water contamination.

Natural alternatives are surprisingly vibrant: turmeric for golden yellow, henna for rich orange, beetroot for deep red, and spinach for fresh green. These colors are gentler on the skin and wash away without environmental damage.

Skip the Firecrackers

Fireworks might light up the sky, but they're devastating for everything beneath it. They're major contributors to both air and noise pollution, terrifying animals and birds while releasing harmful chemicals into the atmosphere. Beyond environmental damage, the fireworks industry often exploits child labor, with underprivileged children working in dangerous factory conditions.

Gift Thoughtfully

Love giving personalized gifts? Channel that enthusiasm in an eco-friendly way. Homemade treats, potted plants, handcrafted items, or experiences create lasting memories without environmental guilt. Think herb gardens, homemade sweets, or DIY candles—gifts that keep giving long after the festival ends.

Choose Earth-Friendly Idols

While seeking prosperity and health through worship, honor Mother Nature too. Clay idols dissolve harmlessly in water, unlike Plaster of Paris versions that pollute rivers and lakes. Many artisans now create beautiful, intricate clay alternatives that are just as stunning and far more meaningful.

Decorate with Nature's Bounty

We all become interior decorators during festivals, transforming homes into celebration spaces. Instead of buying plastic decorations that pile up as waste, let nature be your design partner. Fresh flowers, rangoli made with colored rice, banana leaves, and mango leaves create stunning, fragrant displays that biodegrade naturally. The best part is, your decorations smell as good as they look.



Natural Holi Color Making Workshop at OES

FESTIVE *Swaps*

Celebrating sustainably means being more considerate of our environment. Here are some small yet impactful practices that can help us start making a significant difference.



01

Plantable rakhi

Celebrate with rakhis embedded with seeds. After the festival, plant them as a part of the ritual and have something to cherish and remember by.



02

Solar Lights

They work just like traditional Christmas lights and other outdoor string lights, but they are powered by sunlight instead of needing an outlet.



03

Eco friendly cleaning products

Opt for cleaning solutions made from plant-based, non-toxic ingredients that leave no harmful residue on festival venues.



04

Eco-friendly Straws

Encourage guests to sip drinks with metal, bamboo, or silicone straws that can be washed and kept for future use.

The Science Behind The Celebrations

An ancient guide for living in sync with our bodies, communities, and the world around us.





Indian festivals are diverse and rich in culture, mainly aimed to publicly celebrate remarkable individuals, significant historical or cultural events, or re-create cherished folkways. Over time, our calendars may have become more condensed, with fewer celebrations than in the past, but the essence of these festivals remains vibrant and deeply woven into the fabric of our culture.

However, beyond just rituals and traditions, these festivals were historically recognized for many other purposes that we are still unaware of.

According to research (Singh 2009), Indian festivals follow a more sophisticated calendar that combines solar, lunar, and star (nakshatra) positions. Traditions are associated with cycles in the natural conditions (weather, crop, etc.), with significant correlation between selective natural parameters and annual festivals. Beyond joy and celebrations, these festivals are said to bring us closer to nature.

These traditions, apart from their religious elements, are about community, the passage of time, and our connection to nature and each other.



Ugadi, celebrated as the new year across several South Indian states, is timed with the onset of spring and the start of the agricultural cycle. Traditionally, it marks the beginning of a fresh harvest, when fields and minds are renewed. The practice of eating “Ugadi pachadi” (a chutney of ingredients ranging from bitter neem to sweet jaggery) represents the varied “flavors” of life. It’s also a way to boost immunity at the change of seasons, using locally available and health-promoting ingredients.

Holi, the festival of colors, originally coincided with the end of winter and the beginning of spring. Its playful color-throwing had a scientific basis: earlier, herbal colors and water helped cleanse the skin and prevent seasonal ailments. The communal aspect also served to break the isolation of winter months and reconnect people with community and nature.

Dussehra is often seen as a victory of good over evil, but it also aligns with significant transitional points: the end of the monsoon and the start of cooler months. In agrarian societies, Dussehra marked a pause before the main harvest. The burning of effigies, symbolic of discarding the old, was a psychological and cultural ritual for communities to come together, assess communal health, and prepare for renewal, in a way, mirroring cycles found in nature itself.

These festivals, therefore, are more than traditional rituals; they are ancient guides for living in sync with our bodies, communities, and the world around us.

Diwali, traditionally called Deepawali, was once centered on knowledge. Lighting lamps dispelled darkness and shared wisdom, celebrating learning and the warmth of gathering to mark new beginnings.

These age-old festivals continue to offer opportunities for knowledge, togetherness, and the joy of living in a society that values cycles of nature and finds meaning in every season, serving as reminders of cultural continuity and renewal.

How Do I Decorate for Festivals Without Overwhelming My Minimalist Home ?

It's the festive season, and everyone, including your friends and family, is sprucing up their homes with Pinterest-inspired DIY decorations. However, you feel hesitant. Perhaps because you're concerned that adding decorations to your minimalist home might compromise its aesthetic.

We might have just the right solution!





Many of us want our homes to feel festive while staying true to its simplicity. The trick is to use thoughtful décor touches that honor the season without going overboard.



- 1 **Pick Your Statement Piece**
Instead of filling your home with random décor, choose one or two eye-catching elements. A classic brass lamp for Diwali, a bold piece of art, or a striking chandelier
- 2 **Experiment With Lighting**
Soft, ambient lighting transforms any home for the festive season. Invest in fairy lights, tealights, or scented candles and scatter them in strategic spots for a warm, inviting atmosphere.
- 3 **Embrace Nature**
Fresh flowers or lush green potted plants enliven minimalist spaces. Festive garlands or single-stem marigolds add seasonal cheer without crowding surfaces.
- 4 **Focus on Textures**
Swap out cushion covers or throws for rich fabrics like velvet, silk, or textured cotton in your favorite festive hue. This way, the space feels warm but not cluttered.
- 5 **But first, Declutter**
Before you decorate, remove the everyday items that could distract from your festive highlights.

Remember, minimalism doesn't mean skipping celebration decor but curating your joy with intention and elegance. So go ahead, celebrate without the clutter!



METAPHOR

Recommends

Monsoon living calls for textiles that breathe easily, dry quickly, and carry the subtle quietness of the season. In this month's selection, we've gathered linens that feel like a sigh of relief — grounded in natural fibres, handcrafted beauty, and weather-wise functionality.



01

Handcrafted Diyas

Unlike traditional clay diyas, these crochet alternatives are reusable and made from natural, biodegradable materials, contributing to a greener planet. Designed to be used with LED tealights.

Recommended from:
Knotty & Krafty Studio
Price: ₹1,500

02

Decorative Wall Mirror

Such eye-catching pieces function as both a wall mirror and a beautiful centerpiece. It can be used for festive decorations as well as for everyday use.

Recommended from:
Nestasia. in
Price: ₹4,741 each



03

Terracota Diya Holder

Eco-friendly, utilizing sustainable, natural materials that are used as a diya holder, bring a sense of purity and warmth to any space.

Recommended from:
Kalavali
Price: ₹1,499 each



04

Traditional Cushion Covers

Madhubani or Embroidered traditional cushion covers can give your space an artistic look without overwhelming it.

Recommended from:
Pilovio and Studio Covers
Price: ₹300 - ₹1,500 each



05

Designer Dhurries

These traditional, flat-woven rugs are known for their durability and versatility. They feature a variety of designs, including geometric patterns, stripes, and floral motifs.

Recommended from:
Fabindia and Peepul Tree
Price: ₹900 - ₹10,000 each



FESTIVE

Recipes



01

Kashayam

Ingredients:

- Water: 2-3 cups
- Herbs and spices (e.g., ginger, turmeric, black pepper, cinnamon)

Process:

- Boil water
- Add chopped herbs and spices
- Simmer for 10-15 min
- Strain
- Serve warm

02

Millet Ladoos

Ingredients:

- 1 cup brown top millet flour
- 1/2 cup jaggery powder
- 1/4 cup A2 Bilone ghee
- 1/4 cup mixed nuts (almonds, cashews, pistachios, finely chopped)
- 1/2 teaspoon cardamom powder
- A pinch of salt
- Water or milk

Process:

- Roast the Millet Flour (5-7 min on medium flame)
- Prepare the Nut mixture
- Melt Jaggery
- Combine Ingredients
- Shape the ladoos
- Cool and store





Designing the Perfect Night's Sleep at Antharam

At Antharam, night settles in like a gentle embrace. The day's sunlight gives way to cool breezes that drift through open windows, carrying the scent of earth and the quiet hum of nature. Sleep here isn't something you wrestle into; it's something you welcome, the way you'd welcome an old friend.

Nature as Your Sleep Partner

The first secret to a beautiful night's rest is fresh air. Wide windows with fine mosquito nets let the night in, without letting the insects join you. Through them, you hear the soft trill of crickets and the faint rustle of leaves — the kind of sounds that remind you there's no car horn, no traffic drone, no city static. Your room becomes part of the living landscape.

A simple bed — sturdy, uncluttered — waits with cool cotton sheets and pillowcases that breathe as easily as you do. Your nightclothes are soft, light, and fuss-free. On the bedside, there's water in a glass, a book you love, and your phone — not buzzing on your pillow but resting quietly on a pretty tray, as if it too deserves a good night's sleep.





Preparing Body and Mind

In Antharam, nights are designed to help you transition with grace. As you step into bed, you can feel your breathing deepen. A few slow inhalations through the nose, a gentle pause, and an even slower exhale help release the weight of the day. Some residents play a soft sleep audiobook or calming music — the kind that feels like a lullaby for the grown-up soul.



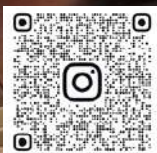
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