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DESIGN-BUILD

Rooted Statements: Where
a Home Feels Curated, Not
Just Decorated

IN Design Dilemma
Decluttering Before a
Republic Day
Get-Together

Feature Home
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WHAT'S TRENDING?

PONGAL & SANKRANTI DECOR: HONEST, HARVEST-LED, AND TIMELESS

The year has begun with a lot of pomp and glitter, now, as we have settled further into the cold month of January, we have festivals like Pongal and Sankranti that do not arrive with a lot of spectacle but rather quite subtly as they mark the start of the year in India. These festivals are rooted in agrarian rhythms with the celebrations honouring the natural resources, which include the sun, the soil, cattle, and, of course, the harvest that helps sustain lives. As is evident, the décor is not ornamental but rather symbolic that representing rather than showing off.

These festivals are not merely an event, but they are a reminder that abundance does not require excess. The most meaningful decor choices are drawn directly from the land, biodegradable by nature, and rich in cultural memory.



FESTIVAL DECOR IN JANUARY IS NOT ORNAMENTAL — IT IS SYMBOLIC

In farmhouses and eco communities, the decor of January feels effortless, this is because it grows from what already exists around it. The elements are lived traditions rather than styled pieces. This is a beautiful reminder that growth is everywhere. Tall, green, and resilient, sugarcane symbolizes sweetness earned through patience. Placed at doorways, it marks prosperity and welcomes the harvest into the home

Brass or clay pots are filled with turmeric, ginger, and rice, which stand for auspiciousness, vitality, and sustenance. They also look quite grounded, adding to the subtle décor.





WHAT WORKS BEAUTIFULLY IN FARM HOMES AND ECO COMMUNITIES:

Kolams made with rice flour are one among the most sustainable art forms not just in India but the entire world. Rice flour feeds ants and birds, which turns décor into an act of giving and generosity.

Marigold, kankambaram, and mango leaf thoranams are not just colourful add-ons but also hold a deeper meaning. They symbolize positivity, devotion, and fertility. They bring together fragrance, movement, and add a sense of vibrancy to the courtyards.

Remember, these festivals can help unleash your eco-friendly side. It is more about picking alternatives that are not just good for the home but also the environment. So, **drop those plastic garlands, foil backdrops, and artificial flowers** that don't do any good. Decorate with what the harvest has provided and return it quietly once the festival ends.

JANUARY DECOR IS ABOUT ABUNDANCE WITHOUT EXCESS.

Pongal and Sankranti decor is timeless because it does not chase trends—it respects cycles. Every element serves a purpose. Every texture tells a story. Every choice reflects gratitude. Natural materials used during these festivals have the power to stop people and make them stare in awe. It is a gentle reminder that festivals help nourish both the home and respect the harvest. There is a deeper beauty in understanding that these days are not just days that are waiting to be shown off, but rather days that help engrave a deeper sense of love and understanding towards the harvest and what gives your life.





Decluttering Before a Republic Day Get Together

Republic Day is an annual reminder of India's growth and development. They aren't your usual loud affairs, but a more thoughtful day that invokes conversations that are meant to stay. The honest questions asked by children, older people sharing stories that invoke a sense of patriotism. In such a setting, preparation is more about the space. The most meaningful way to prepare your home for Republic Day is not decoration, but decluttering with intention.

Clutter does more than merely crowd the space, but also clutters the mind. When surfaces are busy, conversations often end up being short. Movement starts to feel restricted, and dialogue shuts down. Spaces are supposed to invite pause and to allow people to sit with ease and listen to conversations smoothly. On a day that commemorates the values of the Republic—dialogue, equality, shared civic life, this truly matters.



Think of decluttering as a democratic form that is open, accessible, and welcoming. Coffee tables and console units are meant to be cleaned, so better to take away the clutter that has been lying there for weeks! Empty surfaces signal that the room is meant for people and not just objects.

Having one shared surface like a dining table or a floor spread encourages togetherness. It eliminates the concept of hierarchy and creates a natural flow for conversations, food, and eye contact. Everyone is treated equally.

Too many movable items create a visual noise and add to the obstacle as well. Keeping seating intentional and comfortable is essential. When there is room to stretch your legs and sit with ease, people stay longer, and conversations stay for long.



Republic Day is a day when you would expect conversations to drift outside rather than remain inside only. Open those doors and let the room be filled with the air of freedom. Fresh air helps soften discussions and make space for exchanges.

Once the clutter is gone, resist the urge to replace it with excess décor. Republic Day does not call for theatrical styling. It asks for restraint.

Natural fabrics can add to the charm; they help ground the space while also symbolizing simplicity and neutrality. This allows food and faces to take the centre stage. Brass lamps also add to the magic. They bring in warmth and are more cultural and not performative. It is further rooted than merely a piece of decoration.

A small tricolour floral arrangement can also make this day exciting. Use real flowers and not those artificial ones. Let the colours appear organically with the green leaves, the white blooms, and of course, a touch of saffron.

When a home is cluttered, the mind is equally cluttered. Having a more organized space, there is a subtle shift that takes place. Conversations are more meaningful, elders feel heard, and children listen closely.

Decluttering becomes an act of hosting with values. It says: there is space for you here. Space to sit, to speak, to disagree, to remember, to imagine.

Republic Day is not just about India but also an experience that begins at home, around shared meals, and in rooms where dialogue exists. This Republic Day, clear the room and let the conversations sink in.





Feature Home

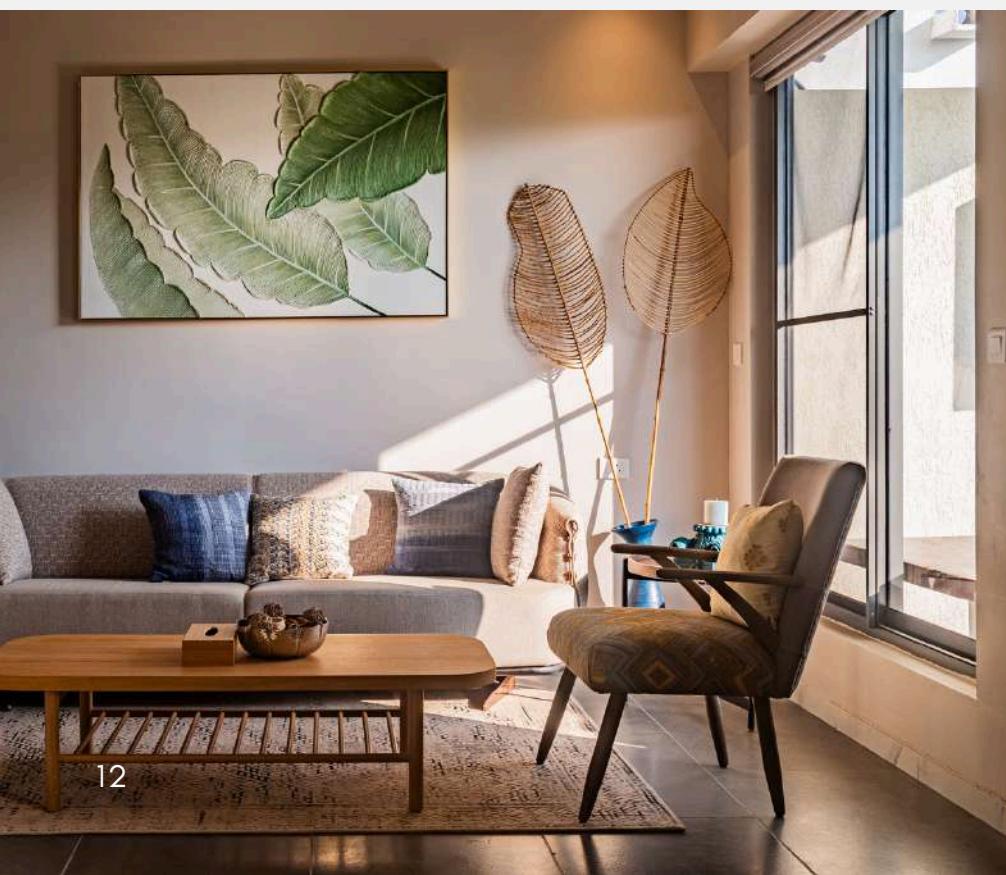
Organo Damaragidda

Sunlit, Simple, and Proudly Indian

Organo Damaragidda, coming up in the growing areas in the city of Hyderabad, has fields that stretch numerous and air that carries the sweet smell of harvests. A home set here is the prime example of a house tucked away from the hustle and bustle of mundane city life. This farmhouse comes alive in January when the festival of Sankranti dawns. It arrives quietly and not loudly. It welcomes you gently with the help of material, lights, and, of course, a sense of belonging.

The heart of the home is sunlight, where the lights hit softly on the grounded fabric. Large, thoughtfully curated openings help the winter sun penetrate deeper into the space. It helps keep the rooms warmer and much cozier. Mornings unfold slowly as light moves gently on the walls and floors, making it much more graceful as time passes by.

The tandur stone that sets the base of the house reflects the sunlight with a soft glow. The natural texture grounds the house and looks cool yet super comforting. It also comes from a place of the region's architectural language. The stone does not scream for attention, but it does its job by connecting the exterior to the interior, which is a beautiful way to blend the space and make it a part of the immediate surroundings.





Furniture layout is on the same line. Solid wood pieces take up each space with confidence. The point was not to have excessive clutter and ornamentation and to avoid ornamentation as much as possible. Each table, chair, and bench feels more functional than mere aesthetics. It looks sturdy and honest in the space. All the furniture pieces together take up the centre stage, and the room looks lived in rather than just styled.









Festive touches for Sankranti are deliberately minimal. A cluster of fresh flowers rests on the dining table, their colours vivid against the calm interior. A beautiful brass pot right at the entry catches light and signals welcome and auspiciousness with the glam. It also helps the space look grounded. On the floor.

The seating may be arranged for shared meals, which is an invitation to gather and celebrate. Having the shared space take up centre stage also makes the conversations linger further.

As one resident puts it, "This home doesn't need decoration. It already carries the season." And that sentiment defines the space. The architecture, materials, and light play a pivotal role in this space and do the job perfectly well.

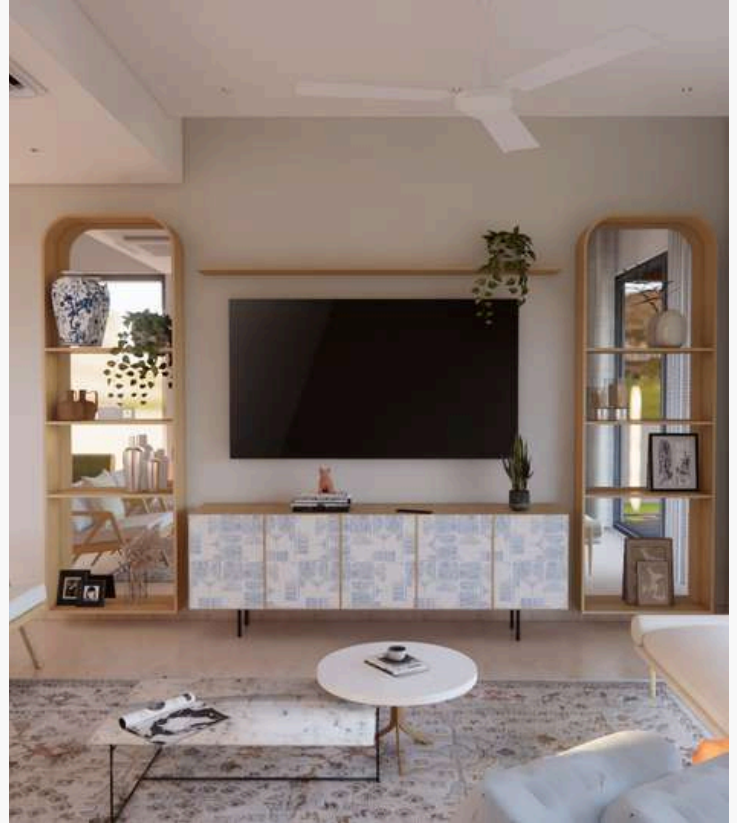
The beauty of this farmhouse lies in the fact that it reminds us that celebration need not be with pomp and glam. That warmth can simply flow in through simplicity. Rooted in place and climate, this home is more of a tribute to the Indian way of living, where the festivals blend seamlessly into everyday life. The moments in this gleaming home are shaded by light, space, and togetherness.

Rooted Statements: Where a Home Feels Curated, Not Just Decorated

You sense it the moment you enter the home. Not through an excess of décor, but through pause. The way a wall holds space for a single artwork. The way materials blend without competing. The way a home reveals its character gradually.

In residential landscapes like Organo Kandawada, homes are built to become expressions of lifestyle rather than some finished compositions. Styling here is not about filling rooms, but about shaping experiences of how one moves through a space, where the eye rests, what stories quietly surface.

At Metaphor Interiors, this sensibility often translates into what we call a customisable standard styling approach with a clear stylistic foundation that allows homeowners to personalise and evolve their spaces over time. Among Kandawada homeowners, three Indian-rooted styles are held forward to resonate for their timelessness and adaptability: Indian Contemporary, Indian Country, and Indian Classical. Each offers a distinct language of expression, yet all share a common intent; that is to create homes that feel grounded, personal, and enduring.



Indian Contemporary

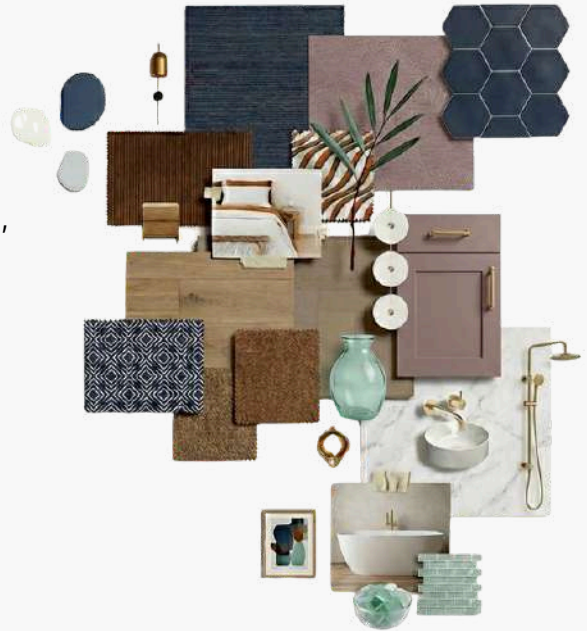
Quiet Confidence in Form and Material

Indian Contemporary styling is defined by subtlety. It does not rely on overt motifs or heavy ornamentation, but instead draws strength from proportion, texture, and balance. The emphasis is on calm, clarity, and a sense of visual breathing room.

Rather than layering multiple décor objects, the focus remains on a few carefully chosen elements that hold their own. Material palettes are tactile yet refined like stone, wood, metal, and subtle textures coming together in warm or cool tones depending on the homeowner's preference. Colour is introduced occasionally, often through one or two accent hues that anchor the space without overwhelming it.

Artwork plays a central role in this style. Large-format abstract or semi-abstract pieces inspired by Indian landscapes, rituals, or textiles become focal points. Line art, relief panels, or metal artworks redefine traditional references through a modern lens. In many homes, textured walls or handcrafted finishes themselves take on the role of art, reducing the need for excess beautification.

Indian Contemporary interiors feel most accentuated in expansive living areas, double-height spaces, staircases, and formal lounges where scale allows restraint to feel powerful. For homeowners seeking an urban-Indian aesthetic that is globally primed yet culturally grounded, this style offers clarity and longevity.



Indian Country

Spaces That Feel Lived In, Not Styled

Indian Country interiors are warm, layered, and deeply emotive. They draw from regional familiarity and lived-in comfort, favouring connection over composition. These are spaces that invite you to sit, gather, and stay.

The palette is built on natural materials for instance reclaimed wood, stone, terracotta, lime plaster, jute, and rattan. Furniture carries visible grain and patina, celebrating craftsmanship over polish. Décor objects often double as functional pieces: wooden stools, metal vessels, woven baskets, or vintage trunks that feel collected rather than curated in a single moment.

Art in Indian Country interiors is expressive and personal. Folk art, regional paintings, hand-painted panels, and murals bring colour and cultural depth. Black-and-white photography of rural landscapes or everyday life introduces a quiet counterpoint. Textile art like block-printed fabrics, woven hangings, or framed heirloom pieces adds another layer of texture and memory.

This style finds its natural home in family living rooms, verandas, courtyards, informal dining areas, and bar spaces. It appeals to homeowners who value warmth, storytelling, and a sense of belonging over visual perfection.



Indian Classical:

Heritage Interpreted with Restraint

Indian Classical interiors celebrate tradition through structure, symmetry, and refinement. Rooted in craftsmanship and proportion, this style honours heritage without becoming ornate or excessive.

The approach here is deliberate. Materials such as carved wood, stone, and brass are used selectively, allowing detailing to stand out against controlled, neutral backdrops. Colour palettes are rich but measured in deep tones grounded by softer bases that lend elegance rather than drama.

Traditional artworks such as Tanjore, Kalamkari, Patta Chitra, or miniature paintings are placed with intention, often in uncluttered locations. Subtle carved mouldings or panel details add depth without drawing attention. Lighting becomes an extension of the aesthetic, with chandeliers and fixtures inspired by classical forms lending rhythm and presence.

Indian Classical styling works particularly well in entrance foyers, pooja rooms, formal drawing rooms, and dining spaces where symmetry and formality enhance the experience. It suits homeowners who wish to honour cultural expression while maintaining sophistication and restraint.





Behind the Scenes Caring for Natural Stone Floors - Tandur & Kota

Natural stone floors like Tandur limestone and Kota stone are more than just building materials; they function like living surfaces. In our experience, these stones breathe, age gracefully, and develop a character that looks elegant, something that no synthetic material can replicate. With the right care, Tandur and Kota floors can last for years altogether, becoming more beautiful with time rather than wearing out.



Cleaning is an important ritual that has to be incorporated into everyday life, like in most Indian homes. Daily cleaning may be quite simple and easy to do.

- Use a soft broom or microfiber mop daily to remove dust and grit that can slowly scratch surfaces.
- Warm water mixed with a bio-enzyme floor cleaner is gentle, natural, and surprisingly powerful.
- Occasional damp mopping is great, just avoid excess water to protect the stone long-term.
- Wipe spills immediately to prevent stains — low effort now, big savings later.
- This routine keeps the space hygienic, protects the stone's aging process, and keeps it looking fresh.

Why bio-enzyme cleaners just make sense:

- Naturally break down dirt, grease, and organic matter without damaging stone.
- Clean deep into stone pores without stripping natural minerals.
- Help maintain the stone's natural patina over time.
- Safe for children and pets, with zero toxic residue.
- Eco-friendly, reducing chemical runoff into soil and groundwater.

METAPHOR

Recommends

At Metaphor Interiors, we believe that spaces are not just built entities but rather grown zones. Rooted in land, memory, and intention, they carry stories of who we are and who we hope to become. This month's recommendations explore the quiet, powerful relationship between place and freedom, and how design, culture, and ritual shape our sense of belonging.



01

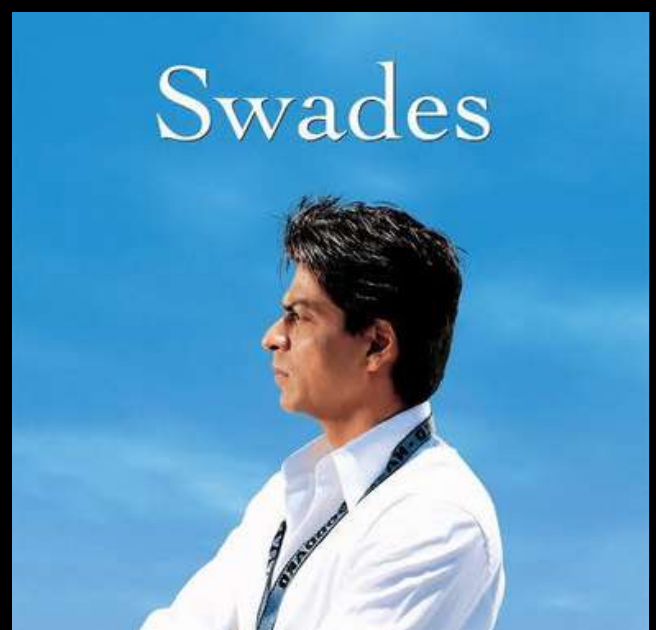
Design Emergency: Building a Better Future by Paola Antonelli

The book *Design Emergency: Building a Better Future* by Paola Antonelli is a beautiful example to begin with. Paola Antonelli invites us to see design not as mere decor, but as a moral and cultural act. The future she describes is a deeply human one where objects, systems, and spaces respond to real lives and real scenarios. For us, this resonates with the idea that good design is grounded, meaning attentive to local materials, climate, craft, and community, which makes it quite true to its surrounding context. Antonelli's work reminds us that when design listens to land and people, it becomes a tool for dignity and freedom rather than being excessive baggage.

02

Movie : Swades

An Indian movie that probably looked India by storm was *Swades*. Few films capture the emotional pull of land as this movie does. It is a story of return, but not just to a village, but to responsibility. The land in *Swades* is not romanticized, but it leaves you feeling asking for more. Yet it offers something irreplaceable: belonging with purpose. As designers, this mirrors our own journeys that are choosing to build locally, work with indigenous knowledge, and create homes that serve both people and place.



03

Podcasts : The Seen and the Unseen

A podcast that deserves not to be missed is The Seen and the Unseen (India & Society episodes). This particular podcast unpacks the layers beneath everyday life in India—history, economics, culture, and power. Listening to the episodes of this podcast is like studying the invisible architecture of society. They remind us that every space exists within larger systems, and that thoughtful design must acknowledge what is often unseen: social inequities, traditions, and collective memory.



04

Ritual : Preparing Pongal together, without hurry

A ritual that has to be on your to-do list is preparing Pongal. Pongal is more than a dish; it is a tribute to land, sun, and harvest. Cooking it slowly and together helps reconnect us to rhythms older than architecture itself. In that shared pause, we remember that homes are not defined by square footage, but by moments of care and wholesomeness.

“A home rooted in land is a home rooted in freedom.” When we design with respect for land, we design for freedom, that is, the freedom to belong, to endure, and to live with meaning. At Metaphor Interiors, this is the story we strive to tell, one space at a time.

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