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INDIA

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ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST THE MOST BEAUTIFUL HOMES IN THE WORLD

LIVING IT UP

FASHION DESIGNER NAEEM KHAN'S MIAMI PENTHOUSE

**BIG &
BEAUTIFUL
HOMES**

**GAURI & NAINIKA'S
NEW DELHI FARMHOUSE**

**A BEACH HOUSE
BY VIKRAM GOYAL**

**ROOSHAD SHROFF'S
MUMBAI APARTMENT**

**THE
CELEBRATION
ISSUE**

**50+ STYLISH
GIFTING IDEAS FOR
THE FESTIVE SEASON**

**PARTY PLANNING
WITH THE EXPERTS**

**FLOWER POWER
WITH ROHIT BAL**



AD *spaces*

TAKE A JOURNEY THROUGH
SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL
HOMES IN THE WORLD

sea CHANGE

Designer Vikram Goyal—in collaboration with American decorator Douglas Graneto—breathed new life into this seaside abode in Long Island Sound, New York

WRITER RAVINA RAWAL • PHOTOGRAPHER PETER MURDOCK

SUN SPOT

In the solarium, the modular sofa—upholstered in Dedar fabric—is by Vladimir Kagan. The 'Golden Grid' coffee table with an amethyst table top, forged lamp and 'Bodhi' side table are from Viya Home.

SUCH GREAT HEIGHTS

Three kinds of marble have been used to create the patterned flooring in the foyer. The customized 'Acropolis' console table with an Italian marble top, 'Molten Polygon' chandelier and 'Eros' bench—all in brass—are by Viya Home. The bevelled mirrors are from Fontana Arte. The oil on canvas by Subodh Gupta is from his 2003 series titled 'Doodhwala'.



WALL ART

The sculptural 'Persepolis' sconce in brass is from Viya Home, as are the 'Floating Lotus' side tables in brass and mother-of-pearl. The tufted sofas have been upholstered in a Dedar fabric. The Vladimir Kagan club chairs with lucite arms and Karl Springer 'Python' club chairs are all vintage 1970s American. The stylized brass bull head sculpture in Lucite is vintage 1960s Italian.





SITTING PRETTY

The Manjit Bawa oil-on-canvas is titled *Shiva on a Bull*. A vintage 1980s Italian square mirror hangs over a 'Bodhi' side table in copper by Viya Home. The white flower lamp is from Rougier. The 'Uncle Jim' armchair is from Kartell. The custom hand-knotted silk rug was designed and developed by Viya Home.



WAVE MECHANICS

The 'Calla Lily' wall sconces and 'Jigsaw' dining table in brass—with a grey oyster shagreen tabletop—are by Viya Home. The Milo Baughman chairs have been upholstered in a Dedar fabric. The 12-arm brass chandelier is vintage 1960s Italian. The custom hand-knotted silk carpet was designed and developed by Viya Home.



(From this picture)

VINTAGE YEAR

The bedroom is appointed in vintage 1960s French serpentine mirrors; 1940s French rock crystal table lamps; a 1960s Italian slipper chair; and a lacquered 1970s French three-drawer chest. The informal kitchen has a 'Labyrinth' dining table in aluminium, 'Lhasa' and 'Borobudur' hanging lamps in bronze and 'Scallop' bowl in silver—all by Viya Home; the custom-made chairs have been upholstered in a Holly Hunt 'Stingray' leather.



GREAT SNAKES!

The custom-made 'Metallic Python' bar in antique bronze is by Viya Home.



While I've never been able to understand it, I've always felt a deep connection to water—the sea makes me feel small, insignificant, curious, enthralled—and I can't think of anything more calming or joyous than living next to it. Which is probably why I felt such keen envy

discussing and discovering designer Vikram Goyal's latest project in Long Island Sound, 25 minutes from Manhattan, New York.

This seaside bungalow is a weekend getaway for Goyal's clients: a couple, both in finance, and their three kids. It was where they lived till they moved to Manhattan, and after Hurricane Sandy swept through it, they decided to rebuild everything. Besotted by a friend's house and its dramatic, almost theatrical spaces back home in Chennai, they sought Goyal out to give a second life to their weekend home. It was his first project in New York, and he was going to be collaborating with architect Scott Raissis of TR Architects and interior designer Douglas Graneto.

STARTING LINE

When he first got there, the architectural elements were already in place; between the scaffolding and plaster was a gigantic shell of a house, where Goyal was introduced to Graneto. The initial brief was simple: an easy weekend home for the family. But the more Goyal explored the place, the more he added to it, and the mandate kept changing. His clients loved all the new elements he introduced to the space, and the idea of a typical seaside home made way for something far more captivating.

Associated with many charities, the homeowners often host fabulous parties—so this house was the perfect setting. Goyal and Graneto needed to bring to the house both a cosy vibe for a family that wanted to spend a quality weekend together, and a shot of glamour and formality for when they were entertaining. So they divided it up—a bold formal side, with pops of colour and texture, and a relaxed side, with browns and greys.

The five bedrooms, sprawling entrance and lobby area, living room, and solarium were left almost entirely to Graneto and Goyal. "I knew immediately that I didn't want it to be too cluttered. My own tendency is towards glamorous spaces. I don't like austere, minimal spaces, unless they're superbly crafted and sculptural in themselves. I like spaces to be liveable, fun, sexy," explains Goyal. "But this here was very vast, very open; every room looks out at the ocean. I didn't want to do the obvious blue-and-white complements, but I didn't want too much interfering with these sweeping views either."

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Graneto and Goyal spent days just visiting design centres, stores, galleries, antique boutiques and stoneyards all over New York and Connecticut. "New York is a superb place for an interior designer because the resources are quite spectacular," says Goyal. "You have to pay through your nose, but it's incredible, and so easy! Especially compared to the Indian projects I've done." It was during their New York recess that Goyal and Graneto also worked on—and completed—the family's Manhattan apartment, which featured in *AD's* November-December 2014 issue.

Despite being conscious of not going the traditional, ethnic route for a change, Goyal could not deny the superiority of Indian craftsmanship. The founder of Viya Home, the furniture and interior accessories brand, Goyal had a lot of the furniture custom-made in India.

In the drawing room is a carpet also designed and developed in India by Viya Home, inspired by Jodhpur miniature paintings; it serves as a much larger canvas for the natural elements of the paintings—flora, fauna, streams. "This is not something we've ever done before; and it was so exciting for me to work on," Goyal says, flipping through photographs of the carpet for me on his iPad, so I can get a closer look. "This carpet is of the highest quality you'll find anywhere in the world, and the weavers completed it in record time, without any sampling. They've done an amazing job; it's really quite stunning." Among the couple's contemporary art collection, which includes works by Anjolie Ela Menon, Jamini Roy, Arpita Singh, Justin Ponmany, Subodh Gupta and Brazilian artist Vik Muniz, is a vivid Manjit Bawa painting in purple, orange and green. "You'd think we'd done the room according to the painting, but we've actually done it around the carpet; things just have a wonderful way of coming together."

MIXED BAG

Indian craftsmanship and contemporary Indian art are two big parts of this home's design. The third comprises European and American furniture and accessories. "From the vintage 1950s table lamps and modern chandeliers to the revamped sofas and sculptural mirrors—they are all collectibles," says Goyal, moving to a stunning bar counter, wrapped in what looks like metallic python skin. While the family's favourite room is now the sitting area facing the sea, for Goyal the dining room comes up trumps. "This is the only room that took some convincing because the clients weren't sold on the wallpaper, which I just couldn't resist. It's got oriental, hand-painted waves in gold leaf, complemented by lily-like wall sconces, and this very vintage chandelier. [The room] certainly has an air of formality, but it's also very cosy, and that's what dining spaces should be. I've done it up exactly how I would have done my own—glamorous and luxurious. Despite their initial hesitation, by the time it was done, the clients loved it too."

And that's always the bottom line. No designer wants their vision diluted by indulging the scattered and often sudden demands of a highly involved client, but there's little point to the whole exercise if they aren't happy with the design—after handing over the reins. In that sense, Goyal got a standing ovation from the family at curtain call. And you have to believe him when he says he can't think of a single challenging aspect of this project, which took a year from start to finish. Himself startled at the very idea, he tries harder, pausing for several minutes before offering, "The door handle? They wanted it to be an interpretation of a wave, and it ended up being cumbersome because of how big it was. I think that could be counted as something challenging. No?"

If a door handle in a five-bedroom bungalow over 10,000 square feet that took a year to complete is the most you can come up with, it's safe to say this project was a breeze, I assure him. Perhaps a little salt-rimmed 'Cheers' is in order. ♦