

THE IDEAL HOME AND GARDEN

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Free!

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Hello Sunshine!



There is something intrinsically charming and very distinguished about interior designer Anu Khatwani's holiday villa in Goa

Impressions | Anuradha Arora Images | Kartikey Shiva





For years, designer Anu Khatwani and her family visited Goa as tourists. They loved everything about the place – the people, the ambience, the freshness. The temptation of visiting the city over and over again made them want more of it with every visit. Finally, they decided to have their own personal space in the city they loved so much.

The colony the family chose is located at Calangute, off the seashore, amidst the lush fields that are so much a part of the non-sea landscape of Goa. The villa is close enough to the active venues and distant enough for privacy. "We always wanted our house close to Baga Beach because that's where we hang out mostly," explained Anu.

"We know most of our neighbours. They are mainly foreigners and NRIs. They are all great people. My husband and I are the youngest couple in the neighbourhood as the others in the colony have migrated to Goa for retirement."

Like all of Anu's work, the decor of the villa is stunning. "The whole house was actually put together in four days flat. I took all my carpenters, workers and a truckload of things from here – furniture, nails, screws, teaspoons, toiletries, show pieces and linens." It took all of three weeks to plan and produce, after which the mantling took place on site. Some odd pieces like roller blinds and mattresses were locally bought,



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Not overdone, the kid's room has a peculiar charm. The walls have hand-painted flowers and knick knacks collected from all over the world.



This distressed wooden rocking chair for the kids adorns a lonely corner. A simple floral cushion adds to the look.



"My favourites in the whole house are the three-dimensional butterflies on the walls with the hand painted flowers that my sister, Anjali Anand, painted for the kids' room, the two-poster bed in the master bedroom against the powder blue wall and the 60 black and white flowers with a touch of yellow in the living area."

The theme of the villa is a fusion of many styles. From classic to contemporary, all rooms are done differently.

"There is a touch of European country and Mediterranean fairy-tale styling" All the colours on the walls were selected by Anu herself – and they're different in every room. Most of the artefacts that dress up the shelves are things they collected in their Mumbai home for years. Nothing was especially created for the house except the big furniture.

The family visits about four to five times a year and stays on for a couple of days. "Christmas and New Year are our favourite time to spend here. We stay the longest then. Our friends also accompany us then."

Anu has done a piece or two for clients in Goa. She's even thinking about starting a store in the city soon. "But one needs to take into account that it's going to be seasonal with a place like Goa."

"Making and owning a holiday home is easy, maintaining it is the most difficult." They have a house in Poona, a villa in Goa and another in Spain. "I think this list will keep increasing with time as it's a great investment for the kids' future."



Every nook, every corner has something to look forward to, whether it's a set of photographs on a distressed console or a beaded hanger behind the bathroom door.



REAL HOME

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