

INDIA  
TODAY

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# home

DIWALI SPECIAL

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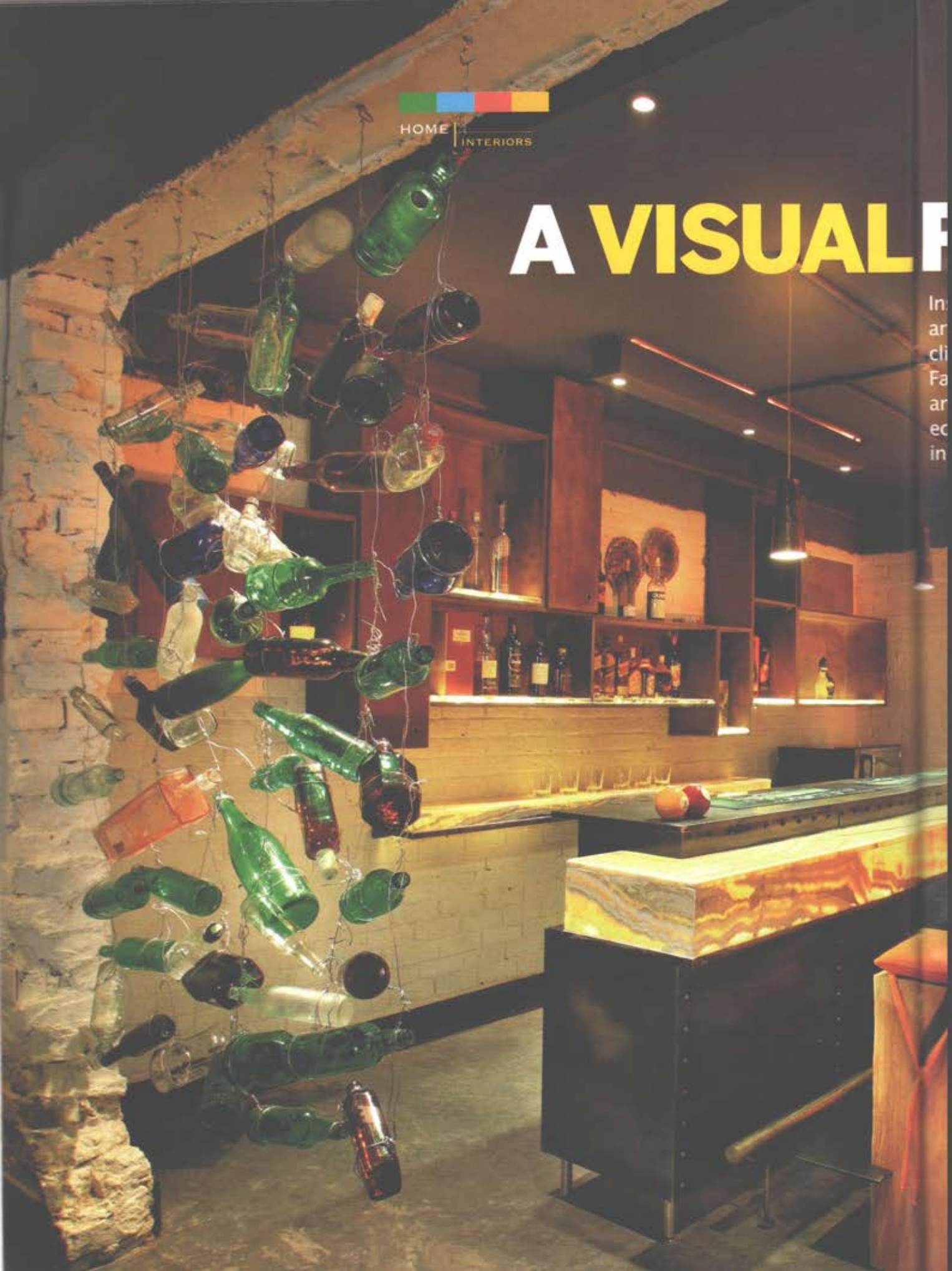
GIFT OF  
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# AL FEAST

Inspired by the unconventional artistic sensibilities of the client, this residence in Sanik Farms, Delhi, is richly detailed and openly embraces an eclectic design, resulting in a unique layout.



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It's not often that a client gives a designer free rein to experiment and fashion an unusual space, far removed from any of the current fads in interior design. When such a rare client does materialise, it can sometimes unsettle the designer if the design intent seems to be veering towards 'maximalist' excess. However, when my team and I met the client, a new owner of a residence in tony Sainik Farms in south Delhi, we considered ourselves fortunate. After all, the client, while explaining the idiosyncrasies of his unconventional artistic taste, conferred his complete trust in us to harmonise the finished whole into a comfortable inviting home.

## A SIMPLE LAYOUT

Spread across two floors and a basement, the floor plan is organised such that the living, dining and kitchen spaces are on the ground floor along with the mother's room and a home office/library for the owner with a separate entrance from the front porch. The private spaces, including the master and children's bedrooms are housed on the first floor. The basement is

Used beer and whisky bottles recycled to form a screen in the bar



furnished as an entertainment zone and includes a bar, television lounge, gym-cum-activity area and guest bedroom.

**THE BIG CHALLENGES**

One of the key challenges for us was that the house was completely built and the owner wanted to make only minimal structural changes. Another major challenge we faced in the project was to mend the existing false ceiling with our design. It was also decided to retain existing doors and windows. Another prominent change involved replacing the plain staircase railing with a trendy MS (mild steel) sheet railing.

**A LOOK AT THE KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

The aesthetics of the completed home as a fusion of multiple design elements merged into one space while simultaneously celebrating each object's individuality. It can be described as a marriage of ideas enhancing and complementing one another which births a unique balance. This approach of embracing varied sensibilities is evident on entering the double height entry foyer, where a wall decal with the silhouette of a tree on a grey background looms large against the staircase outfitted with an undulating MS sheet railing. The treads of the stairs are treated with a burnt wood finish, adding to the visual feast that greets the eye. A



In the formal drawing room, a floor-to-ceiling artwork and a velvet upholstered sofa make a dramatic statement (left); another living area with chic leather couches and unique accessories (above)



Take a tip or two from this staircase that uses the unused area to display an artefact

large light fixture suspended from the first floor ceiling and descending to multiple heights along the double volume completes the composition. The home abounds with an array of textures, colours and materials. Creative use of MS sheets is visible in several locations, from the nameplate to the staircase railing, to the steps fascia and the bar unit. The basement and office on the ground floor have plain cement concrete flooring. Unfinished, raw wood can be seen in most of the fur-

niture pieces in the house. Digital wallpapers with bold patterns feature in the living room, study and daughter's room. Rough textured white paint in the study adds to the vintage ambience of the room. Another eye-catching element is the ceiling with hung carved white wooden frames in the TV lounge and used beer and whisky bottles recycled to make a screen in the bar area. Cleverly designed pendant lights made from *lassi* glasses with antique gold finish are suspended over





The master bedroom with a an upholstered fabric headboard in teal (above); one of the bathrooms (left)



the bar counter fitted with backlit onyx ledge. Quirky materials and textures such as the book unit in corian and wood in the entrance lobby contribute to the home's eclectic feel. Graffiti by an artist was commissioned for the basement foyer which also features a compass made in vinyl on the floor. The bedrooms on the first floor continue the eclectic theme, with the master bedroom featuring twisted wooden poster and an upholstered fabric headboard in teal against a brown wall. The flooring is made of engineered wood. In the dining room, a blown glass chandelier hangs over a custom designed dining table with a base made of wooden logs.

As for colours, they were selected according to mood of the space. The living room employs a colour palette that aids in maintaining the formal look while vibrant colours were given to the children's rooms. The master bedroom is adorned with printed curtains.