

# Wallpaper\*

JUNE 2011

\*DESIGNINTERIORSFASHIONARTLIFESTYLE

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## OUR PLACES IN THE SUN

Delightful digs in Delhi and  
a beautiful bureau in Mumbai

## REBORN IN INDIA

Come alive with us in  
the most eye-popping,  
synapse-snapping,  
pulse-pushing place  
on the planet

### THE MULTIPLEX FACTOR

Why Bollywood no  
longer needs to make  
a song and dance of it

### THE MARRIAGE MONSTER

Is the Indian wedding  
out of control?

The battle to  
**SAVE  
CHANDIGARH**  
What happens  
when the city of the  
future becomes  
a vintage treasure

Plus! The hottest Indian  
architects. Taking the  
temperature of Mumbai's  
coolest quarter. The  
disappearing delicacies  
of Indian cuisine



THINKING SMALL

Our Room, India's  
new-generation  
people's car', raising  
funds outside our  
familiar comfort zone  
in South India.  
Main photo by Sage  
Morgan, "Hill Country"  
also by Sage Morgan, for  
iDOL, 2010. By Davis  
Design, "City's Spirit"  
Hillside, 2010 (11, 702),  
30 "Prayer Grove" for  
City Home.

# 02

## The apartment

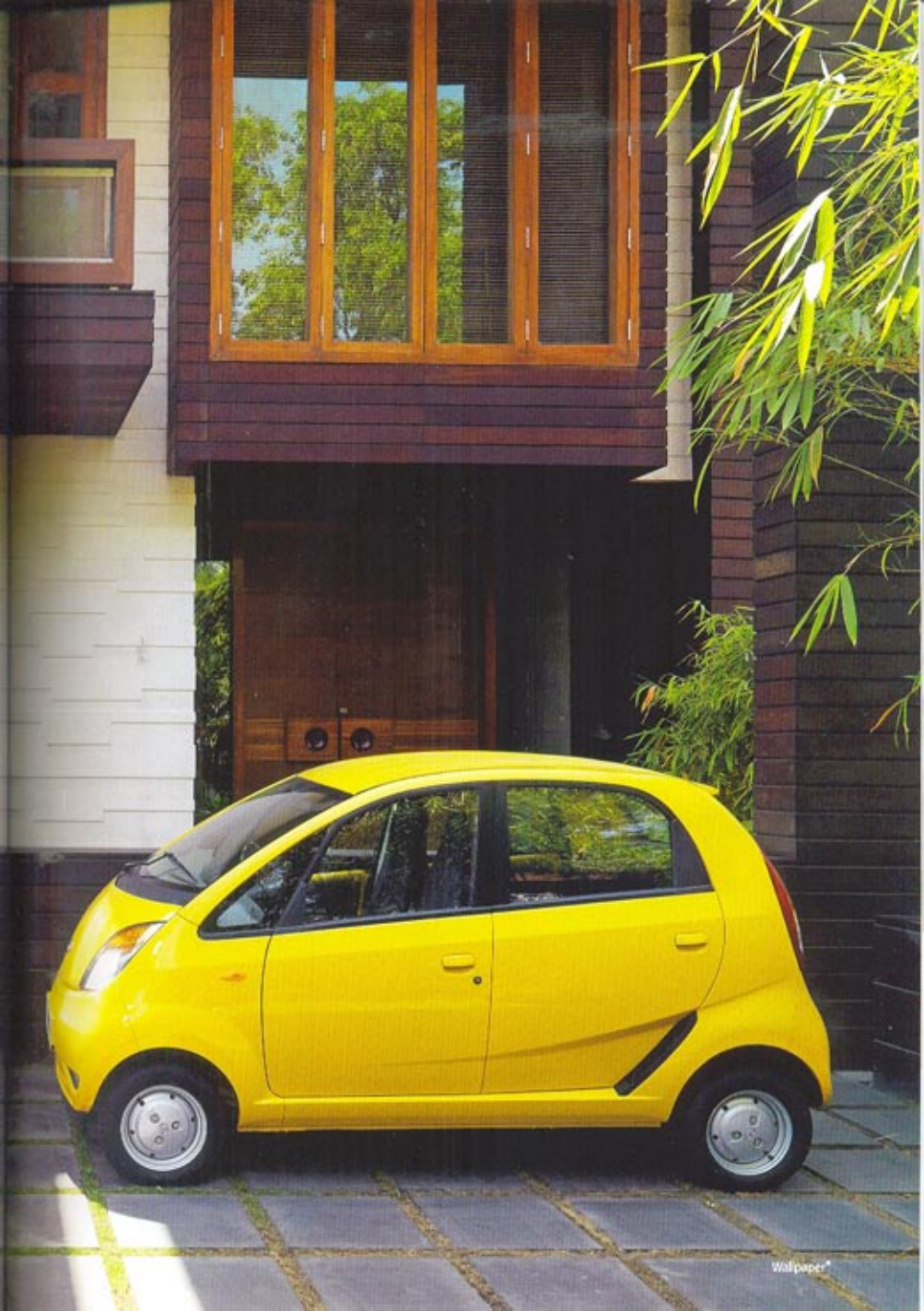
We weighed up a number of possibilities for our Delhi digs, but when Mani and Soraal Rastogi, of award-winning architects' firm Morphogenesis, asked us to move into the family home, we knew we'd found the right place. At once utterly contemporary and a showcase for traditional Indian crafts, it proved the perfect clubhouse.

Photography: Bharat Sikka

Interiors: Benjamin Kempton and Amy Heffernan







## 050 | SPACE

### BEHLI DIGE

This page, console, INR20,800 (\$1,791), by House of Ichhatram, Akshaykumar's case, INR3,800 (\$41), by GoodEarth, 'Nisam' table, INR250,000 (\$5,777), by Gurjan Gupta, for StudioWasp, wrought iron candle

stand, INR3,800 (\$40), from Apartment 9  
Opposite, editor-in-chief Terry Chambers prepares to set out on a day of Delhi discovery  
Terry wears 'Bright Cotton' jacket, €400, by Appel, shirt, €195, by Richard James.

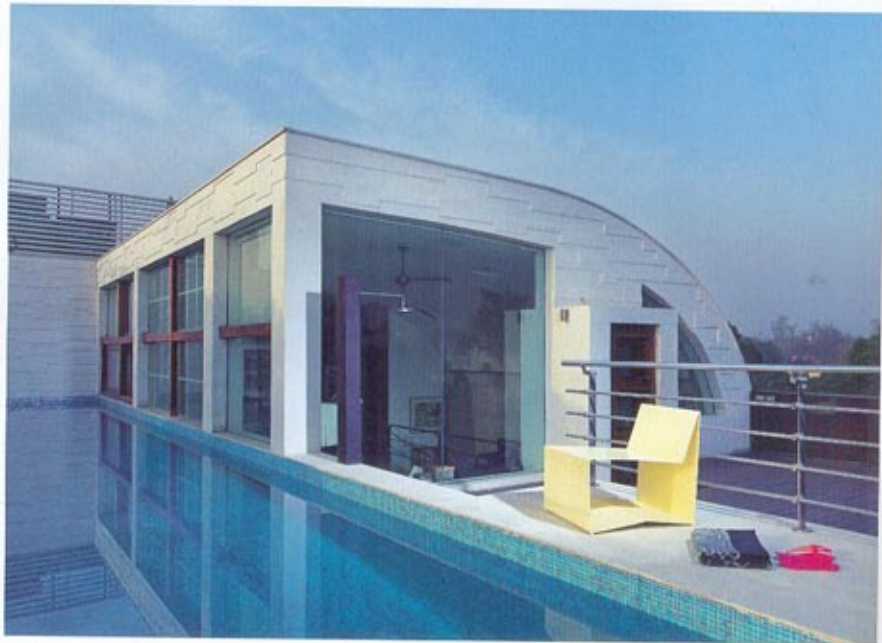
Jeans, €130, by APC, 'Tania A' jacket or 'Felix' pullover, \$422, by Oakley, sunglasses, €300, by Prada Private. Bespoke folder, price on request, by Smythson. Bench, price on request, by Inline Design Workshop



A showcase for local craft,  
the house is definitely  
Indian, in the wood and the  
handling of the wood







All things are relative but compared to Mumbai, Delhi is a city of sylvan calm with wide grand roads and parks aplenty. Not that it lacks in drive or drama, but there is a definite air of something a bit like calm about Delhi.

As India's Washington – though Delhi is a cultural hub, commercial force, a city in the round in a way that Washington definitely is not – Delhi has grand avenues and government palaces, streets of architecturally innovative and imposing embassies. But it also has mega malls and thriving markets, in Hauz Khas village an arts and fashion ghetto in the Williamsburg/Shoeditch model, and in the exploding satellite of Gurgaon – a model of the Indian city of the future and home to the Devi Art Foundation – the finest private art gallery in the country.

The chic centre of gravity in the city is definitely shifting south, and so it was in South Delhi that we sought our suitable digs for our potting in the Indian capital.

Luckily, we have friends in all the right places, and Manish and Sonali Rastogi, of design and architecture firm Morphogenesis, opened the finely crafted doors of their very generously proportioned live/work set-up, just for us.

Established in 1996 by the Rastogis, since joined by Sanjay Bhardwaj and



**LAPPING IT UP**  
Above, the rooftop pool 'Amanat' chair, ₹120,000 (P443), by Alex Dean, Scanline Store. Animal-print knee, price on request, by Brno, Scanline, G2, by Hesterhaus

Left, deputy beauty A lifestyle editor Pari Pu took sleep in chair research Bombay Desk' chair, ₹1125,000 (S2, S2), by Gangan Gupta, for StudioWrap. 'Blue' table, ₹100,000 (S062), by Nimisha Kudra. 'Night Set, Dark Blue' coffee, ₹11,500 (B41), by GoodEarth. Glass, ₹11,700 (S25), from Apartment 9





Vijay Dahiya, Morphogenesis is one of the most innovative practices in India, bringing together architects, designers and urban planners. It has also taken a lead in the debate about where India's cities go from here (see page 122), how massive growth can be wedded to sustainability and a care for tradition.

The house, designed by the couple, is built to accommodate three generations of the Rastogi family – but offering plenty of distinct space to each familial branch – as well as offices for Morphogenesis staff and, for good measure, room to cope with the cultural events and talking shops the Rastogis are keen to cultivate. Plenty of room to squeeze us in, then.

Built in concrete, stone and wood and surrounding by lush gardens, the house is spatially complex but very easy on the eye and even easier to spend time in. The couple were determined that their home be a showcase for local crafts and materials, so while there is something of the midcentury American about the

house, it is definitely Indian, in the wood and the handling of the wood.

The garden proved a marvellous space for morning coffees and plotting the day's plan of attack, and for early evening cocktails before spinning off into the night's social whirl. The fresh air, watery light, internal garden and vast sofas of the family room, however, did make it hard to leave (though our fleet of teeny Tatas was always ready to ease us through the coagulate of cars, motorbikes, rickshaws and bonnet-dodging pedestrians).

The house also proved perfect for studying our design finds in the appropriate setting. It's hard to imagine Gunjan Gupta's malachite table finding a happier home. Or Nirmala Rudra's 'Blue' table set off to such effect anywhere else.

At evening's end we could climb to the rooftop, dip our feet in the pool and scan the great city stretched out and still very much alive around us. **Nick Compton**  
[www.morphogenesis.org](http://www.morphogenesis.org). For an image gallery of Morphogenesis' work, visit [Wallpaper.com](http://Wallpaper.com) ★

#### SHELF OBSESSION

Shelving unit and ornaments, owners' own. Books throughout, from a selection, from CMR bookstores. On lower left shelf, 'Palm Leaf Bowl', INR2,200 (\$43), by Devi Design. 'Fetal Bowl', INR4,200 (\$95), by GoodEarth. Centre top, 'Globe', vases, INR5,000 (\$113), from Klove. Centre bottom, black borders, INR1,200 (\$27), by AKFO Studio, from Kanata. Right of centre, top, 'Tanya Ribbed Vase', INR4,200 (\$95), by GoodEarth. Bottom, 'Spike Bowl', INR1,950 (\$38), by Devi Design. Right, middle shelf, 'Teaspoons' vase, INR1,800 (\$36), by Devi Design. 'Clear Decanter' with Plexiglas support, INR3,400 (\$71), from FCM. Bottom, ceramic vase, INR6,200 (\$136), by Apartment 3. 'Lacquer' sofa bed, INR25,000 (\$528), by Alex Davis, from Ieri Store. 'Navratri Teaspoons' stools, INR35,000 (\$4,312), a set of three, by Gunjan Gupta, from Studio99. For stockists, see Resources, page 74. Thanks to Shilpa Spohas. Delhi producer: Amber Tikari. Photographers' assistant: Terenz Datta.