

INDIAN

DESIGN & INTERIORS

THE MAGAZINE FOR BETTER LIVING

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2001 RS. 50



Reception, wahindia.com premises, New Delhi

TWO WAHS FOR wahindia!

Also:



A HOUSE NAMED DESIRE
AT HOME WITH SABEER BHATIA **Bangalore**



IN DEEPTI'S DEN
A SMALL SPACE TRANSFORMED **Mumbai**



OBJECTS OF MY INTEREST
QUAINT CHAIRS FROM A RAJASTHAN HAVELI **Delhi**

Q. We have just moved into a 1100 sq ft two-bedroom house. There is an attached verandah (about 10ft x 3ft) that runs alongside one of the bedrooms. I want to convert this into a study. Please advise on how to use the space well.

Rani Raheja, Sarva Priya Vihar, New Delhi

Ans. I think the first consideration while converting your attached verandah/balcony into a study should be glazing the open side, from the balustrade up to the ceiling or up to door height. This could be done with glass and aluminium members, powder coated in white, pale bronze or in a colour of your choice. To allow fresh air, this glazing could be partly fixed and partly openable. It should take into consideration the placing of the existing doors and windows that open onto the verandah. For privacy and light control, you could use split bamboo or match-stick blinds.

In your 10ft x 3ft space, I suggest you have a three-foot desk at one end. This could be three feet deep, so that above it, up to ceiling height, you have one foot deep and approximately 15 inches high bookshelves. Near this desk, above the skirting, have your electrical points for a table lamp and a telephone and points for a computer and its accoutrements, if you use one. Use a small but comfortable desk armchair.

At the other end of the verandah, do another set of one foot deep bookshelves. This time from floor to ceiling. In the balance floor space, approximately four feet by three feet, place an attractive floor covering. On the ceiling, centred to the width and two feet away from the two bookshelves, have two ceiling-mounted spot lights, focused on the bookshelves. Any available wall spaces can be used to hang art work. Small objects can also be placed between books. All this should make for an interesting and fairly func-

tional study area.

Q. Ever since we bought our house in the outskirts of Delhi I have been wanting to replace the typical mosaic floor. I want something unusual but not too difficult to maintain. Should I go for different flooring in different areas?

Gauri Bhalla, DLF, Gurgaon

Ans. Sometimes typical mosaic floors, particularly if they are of white cement with white chips, are quite tolerable, particularly if one is planning to use beautiful and interesting area rugs – be it carpets, *kilims*, *durries* or *chattais*. Believe me, changing flooring is quite a painful and disruptive exercise.

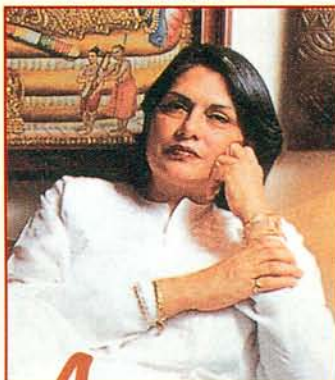
However, if you absolutely must, then look at interesting coloured marbles for the public spaces and the bathrooms. Just ensure that the quality of marble you select is not porous. Stone floorings that have high porosity are very difficult to maintain as they stain quite easily. Actually, you could even select the 'lowly' *kotah* stone. Laid well, it can look stunning, particularly if used in conjunc-

tion with other stones such as *jaisalmer* and white *makrana* in the borders and motifs. In the bedrooms and dressing rooms you could consider using ready-to-lay wooden parquet flooring. The thresholds could be laid either with stone or wood.

The beauty of your floors depends upon the precise and quality workmanship in the laying of the floors and the design of the motifs and borders, if any. You could have different floorings in different areas as long as there is some continuity or complementary factor in the colour schemes and design.

Q. I have a lot of old teakwood furniture in the living room. It is a large space with three sitting arrangements. I want to get some new

DESIGNER



Answers

Please write in with your design queries. Top designer Sunita Kohli offers solutions