

Mastering Wood

POOJA BIHANI OF SPACES AND DESIGN SHARES HER TIPS ON CREATING WARM INTERIORS WITH NATURAL WOODEN WALL FINISHES

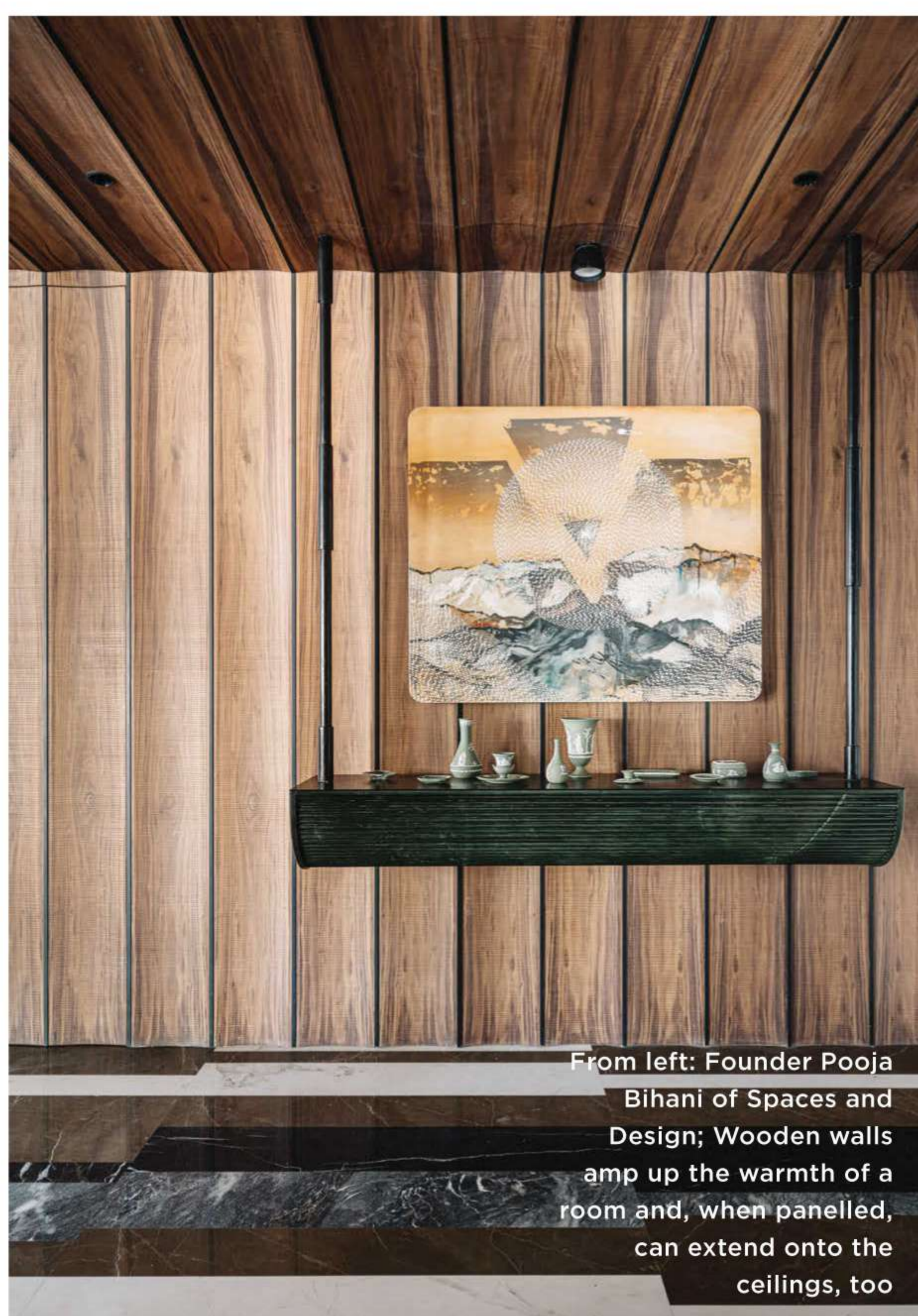


Pooja Bihani's Kolkata-based design studio Spaces and Design is known for seamlessly integrating the indoor-outdoor connection by advocating the use of natural materials in her spaces. Here, Pooja offers her advice on how to skillfully use the versatile qualities of wood to create rich wall finishes for the home.

AESTHETIC APPEAL

Wood's natural qualities, like its inherent rings or curls, unique grain patterns and diverse colour palette, which ranges from light to dark, with brown, red and yellow hues, make it an excellent choice to add depth, warmth and personality to a room.

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From left: Founder Pooja Bihani of Spaces and Design; Wooden walls amp up the warmth of a room and, when panelled, can extend onto the ceilings, too

CREATIVE USES

Panelling walls (in the styles of tongue-and-groove, board-and-batten, etc.) all the way to the ceiling or to a certain height, is a good strategy for bedrooms, TV walls and libraries as it provides a pleasing, mid-century appeal. You can also create a contemporary accent "ribbed" wall with fluted wood profiles at tight intervals. Smaller spaces benefit from wider panels that continue onto the ceiling. Juxtaposing two materials separated by a brass strip is another modern way of using wood with key pairings being wallpaper, marble, stone and tiles.

CARE

The size and cost of solid woods can make them difficult to work with. In order to withstand different climates, solid woods should be seasoned before being fixed onto the wall. The walls should be primed, and a thin plywood base installed, onto which the solid wood is affixed to prevent contraction and expansion. Natural veneers on BWP plywood are an aesthetic and low-cost fix. Treating wood and veneer for termite prevention, especially exterior walls, is recommended. Other alternatives to natural wood include ACP panels and wood-textured tiles, offering low costs, durability, and easy maintenance.

GOOD TO KNOW

Avoid using wood in wet areas like bathrooms and kitchens. ♦ spacesanddesign.com

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