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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 2024

DECOR GUIDE FROM THE PAST

With the ongoing India Design ID in Delhi, Lounge asked architects and interior designers about the different design vocabularies popular in the country and how to incorporate them into homes and workplaces

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Bringing different ERAS HOME

Always-in-vogue décor ideas for your living and work spaces inspired by the past and present, and not by social media

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Home décor trends are cyclical in nature. If Art Deco is in one season, then it's boho-chic the next. At present, clutter-free minimalism is in vogue for both living and working spaces, with hints of pop art, offbeat colours and romanticism reflecting the owner's personality.

Drawn from the displays at the ongoing India Design ID, a design and home décor show, in Delhi (on till 18 February), we put together an interior design guide based on the different design vocabularies that have always been in vogue in the country.

We asked architects and interior designers what these vocabularies mean and how people can bring them into their house or office. You can use these themes separately or borrow elements from each to make a space that best defines and represents you. Keep one rule in mind: don't overdo it.

MODERN DESIGN

WHAT: Modern design emphasises functionality, simplicity and minimalism. This style became a trend in the early to mid-20th century, gaining momentum with the emergence of the Bauhaus movement and the modernist architects who followed, says Kolkata-based Pooja Bihani of Spaces & Design. "In India, modernism became big in 2000 with growing exposure to the internet," she says. "It became popular again when covid re-emphasised that minimalism is easy to maintain."

HOW: Consider using furniture with clean lines, opting for a neutral colour palette and embracing open, uncluttered spaces, suggests Bihani. You can also integrate geometric shapes, minimalist artwork, and natural materials like wood, stone and metal.



COURTESY SPACES & DESIGN/STUDIO SURYAN/DANG



COURTESY CRAFTED SPACES

VERNACULAR DESIGN

WHAT: It's a design form that draws influences from local cultures and topography, and makes use of locally available resources. "You will find a more rustic feel in a house that follows the vernacular design style," says Hyderabad-based Mitali Aharam of Crafted Spaces.

HOW: Aharam often suggests that clients use locally sourced stones like *tandur* (Telangana) and *kadappa* (Andhra Pradesh) for flooring. One of the easiest ways to add the vernacular vibe is invest in furniture, lighting fixtures and traditional artwork, all sourced locally.



COURTESY RED ARCHITECTS

COLONIAL DESIGN

WHAT: The British brought this design form to India in the 17th century, "but it was Indianised to suit the needs of the Englishmen who were constantly on the move," says Khushboo Khandelwal of Studio Design Inc., Mumbai. "Their furniture became lighter (so it could be carried around)," she adds.

HOW: The colour palette is largely limited to whites and browns. "Leather sofas, antique furniture, wooden flooring and exposed walls instantly bring that colonial effect," says Khadelwal.



COURTESY STUDIO DESIGN INC

FUTURISTIC DESIGN

WHAT: Futuristic design means conscious living. "It's having the capacity to think not just for today but to make a calculated prediction for the future," says Mumbai's Ekta Parekh, reD Architects.

HOW: If there's an extra room in the house, instead of turning it into a bedroom, consider creating a multi-purpose adaptive space. You can use large sliding walls (doors the size of the wall) on top-hung channels that can be opened up. Even within the room, you can use a Murphy bed (which can be stored vertically against the wall), decluttering the floor for another use, like a space for yoga, Parekh says.

MUGHAL DESIGN

WHAT: This form of design, which features domes, columns, motifs and patterns, has been a source of inspiration for designers for long. "You will find Mughal design influences across India; it was heavy on craftsmanship," says Mumbai-based Khozema Chitalwala of Designers Group.

HOW: This design vocabulary has always been in fashion, though it's been recreated to serve today's minimalism-loving client's needs. "Mughal era design is all about maximalism; today's client wants a more toned-down version. Just adding a *jharokha* or a tree of life in an *ikat* pattern," says Chitalwala. "Don't go overboard with motifs and patterns, though, for it may look way too opulent."



COURTESY DESIGNERS GROUP



Miley Cyrus during the Grammys in Los Angeles on 4 February; (below) Jennifer Coolidge in February 2023.

Turn up the volume with the blowout

Hair experts offer a step-by-step guide on how to get big, bouncy hairstyles of the 1960s-90s

Dhara Vora Sabhnani

Miley Cyrus made news for more than one reason last week: she won two Grammys, wore five show-stopping outfits, won the internet with her *Flowers* performance—and flaunted the first viral hairdo of the new year.

While everyone else had styled glossy hair, straight or wavy, the singer-songwriter turned up the drama and volume with her 1970s' hairstyle with a modern, punk edge that had elements of the trending mob-wife look. Blowouts from every decade make for some of the most iconic hair looks—be it Brigitte Bardot's back-combed bouffant in the 1960s, Farrah Fawcett's feathered hair in the 1970s that became more voluminous in the 1980s, or the 1990s' fluffy hair supermodel blow-out. We asked two Mumbai-based hairstylists—Javed Salmani from Mary Cohn, a French beauty brand that has opened its first salon in India, and Shivani Kakka, who has worked with personalities like Prateek Kuhad—to break down the steps to get a blow-dry from different decades.

THE 1960s

In the 1960s, hairstyles were all about bangs and volume, says Salmani, while explaining that fringes bring out "a new personality without drastic cuts, and bangs make the face look fuller, cuter". The recent comeback of curtain bangs has revived the voluminous, rounded blow-dry trend from the 1960s.

How to get the look

- ▶ Begin with clean, dry hair.
- ▶ Apply a heat protectant.
- ▶ Divide your hair into four sections: three at the back and one for bangs in front.
- ▶ Apply any thickening lotion evenly to each section for added volume.
- ▶ Use a volumising blow-dryer for maximum effect.
- ▶ Start blow-drying each section from the inside, working your way outward.
- ▶ When you reach the front bangs section, comb inward while blow-drying to achieve the desired 1960s vibe.



GETTY IMAGES

THE 1970s

Hairstyles in this decade embraced backcombing, creating the iconic bouffant look, explains Salmani. These hairstyles lived on in Bollywood in the 1980s and 1990s as well.

How to get the look

- ▶ Begin with clean, dry hair.
- ▶ Use a hair mousse for lightweight yet effective texturing.
- ▶ Use a round brush and a blow dryer to achieve a quaffed, bouncy blowout. Focus on creating volume and soft waves.
- ▶ Once you've achieved the desired look, secure it with bobby pins for a better hold. Go with your natural flow, gently brush small strands in place, and finish strong with a hairspray.

THE 1980s

This decade gave us fun hairstyles, and large, bold hair is both versatile and easy to achieve. "With Miley Cyrus's high-volume, teased and textured hair going viral, I see it making a comeback, especially with Gen Z," says Kakka. For any voluminous blow-dry, Kakka says one should work on each section while holding the dryer perpendicular to the scalp.

How to get the look

- ▶ Start with 50% damp hair. Use a heat-resistant spray.
- ▶ Use a hair mousse to give your hair volume and hold.
- ▶ Section your hair and start doing a volume blow dry.
- ▶ Once done, create big hair sections and use big hair rollers that will give you that extra volume.
- ▶ Change the nozzle of the dryer to a diffuser, blast it with cold air and lightly use a hair spray.
- ▶ Wait five minutes and then start removing the rollers one by one.
- ▶ Once the rollers are out, run your hands through your hair and set them the way you like. This will give you the perfect voluminous look.
- ▶ Take one or two drops of a serum of your choice, rub it between your palms and lightly run it through your hair to tame any unwanted frizz and add shine. You can use a size 28 tong for any last-minute touch-ups you may require.

THE 1990s

"This is my favourite decade," says Kakka. "There's never been greater hair inspiration than the 1990s." This decade gave us the best hair accessories in addition to high ponytails, messy buns, The Rachel and supermodel layers. This decade's hairstyles are still popular among celebrities and even at weddings.

How to get the look

- ▶ Start with 70-80% damp hair and go in with a heat-resistant spray.
- ▶ Use a mousse or a hold spray to give the hair volume and hold it in place.
- ▶ Start with a volume blow-dry using a round or a Denman brush. When you reach the roots of your hair, give it an inward turn.
- ▶ Next, take medium to thick sections and go in with a straightener. Similar to what you did with the dryer, start at the top and when you reach the roots, give your hair an inward turn. This will help you achieve a cleaner look.
- ▶ Use a few drops of a serum of your choice and lightly go in with a hair spray to tame any frizz or flyaways.

Dhara Vora Sabhnani is a Mumbai-based writer.