

# THE WHITE HOUSE AT PALI HILL

This cosy one-bedroom Mumbai apartment is an experiment in white, endorsing an open-plan layout.

By Anuradha Varma, Photos courtesy Nitido Design

The living, dining areas and the kitchen were planned as one open space to maintain an airy feel and allow views of the sunset and sea to be enjoyed from the kitchen. The living area was given generous white sofas that are soft and luxurious. The dining table was placed near the window.



"An all-white theme can end up looking flat and boring, so it's important that you use different shades of white and also play with different textures," maintains Kaizad Dinshaw. The lighting was planned to give the space a warm and intimate feel.

An all-white theme for a home may sound impractical to most, but for one particular owner, it was the theme for a dream home. The interior designer has played with white in different tones and textures, from the furniture to the furnishings.

The one-bedroom apartment on Pali Hill, a premium residential neighbourhood in Mumbai, was designed by Kaizad Dinshaw for a single occupant. Says the interior designer, "It's a compact home with one bedroom, a living room, an open-plan kitchen, and one bathroom. The brief was that apart from an all white interior, the space should also be very easy on the eye."

White was selected as a departure from traditional colour schemes of Indian homes, which tend to view the colour as impractical. He explains, "White symbolises purity and calm and great care was taken to ensure that individual components would play their part without violating the scheme when viewed as a whole."

However, there are challenges when working within a restricted theme, especially an all-white décor. Says Dinshaw, "The main

challenge when working with white is to prevent a room from looking too flat. The solution was to use different shades of white; this gave the necessary depth and dimension without upsetting the colour scheme. Also, care was taken to sensitise the workforce in handling the various aspects. I was certainly tempted to keep a few areas a little different. The windows, for example, were crafted from solid timber and it was heartbreaking to see these getting painted over, but it was a necessary decision to maintain the look."

While some of the furniture was sourced from antique markets, Dinshaw had furniture custom-made made by carpenters and other furniture pieces belonged to the owner's grandmother. Some pieces were painted white and some were deliberately distressed to give them an aged character. All furnishings were locally sourced and selected on the basis of their textures as well as the colour. As for the design inspiration, Dinshaw explains, "We looked at French and other colonial design for inspiration, as well as country homes."



PROJECT



## KAIZAD'S TIPS FOR A BRIGHT WHITE HOUSE

1. Select paints and other white materials that can be easily cleaned.
2. Choose lighting that is soft and warm to prevent the place from looking too bright.
3. If you decide to add colour, be sure to choose carefully as that would immediately consume the focus. So, be sure that it's something that you would like to highlight.
4. Research the style that you want to go for. You could have a soft style as this apartment, or a contemporary white one. Decide the style that makes you happy.

The kitchen is part of an open-plan layout. Dinshaw has opted for a distressed crockery cabinet and antique switchboards. The bedroom (above, left) has a carved wooden bed with the window designed to create shadows in the evening light as the house is west-facing.