

# Understated Elegance of the Literary Figure

## A glimpse of the personal space of Chetan Bhagat

**Feature:** Shilu Manandhar **Photo:** Arjun Shah

The man has awed us with his five-best-selling novels. He is a youth icon who has inspired us with his thoughtful and witty speeches. He has earned respect and recognition with his substantial contribution to the literary world. Undoubtedly, Chetan Bhagat is one of the most influential personalities in the world. And we cannot be blamed if we want to get a glimpse of the personal space of this literary figure.

Luxury is not what comes to mind when one sets foot in the 2,400 sqft Mumbai apartment. Instead, it boasts of an understated elegance. Simplicity is the essence of this apartment and reflects the Bhagat family's strong middle-class values. Chetan believes that practicality should never be sacrificed at any cost. "Hence it was our endeavor to create a harmony between design and practicality," shares Kaizad Dinshaw, the interior designer and partner at Nitido Design- a Mumbai-based design consultancy and contracting firm. All elements of the apartment were designed keeping in mind elegance, simplicity and practicality.

"Everything you see is here for a purpose. If we didn't need it, it wouldn't be there. I was clear on including things that had a utilitarian purpose," explains Chetan. Alongside practicality, Chetan's wife Anusha wanted the designs to be pretty as well. Thus, the apartment is a perfect blend of the two. White walls and large windows frame the apartment.

With the backdrop of white, the bespoke furniture pieces appear striking. The large windows create a brighter space allowing maximum possible natural light and reducing lighting cost. The couple had the option to choose an apartment on a higher floor but they fell in love with this apartment as it had the sight of eye-level greenery. "We could see branches of trees and flowers from this particular apartment," Anusha fondly recollects.

Nitido Design specializes in turn-key residential and commercial projects. They focus on good design, good choice of materials and exceptional finishing and quality. Kaizad enjoyed working on the Bhagat's project, as there was a good understanding between them. He adds,

Chetan Bhagat  
&  
Kaizad Dinshaw  
(Interior Designer)





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*Chetan Bhagat*



**My Favourite space**

I love the bedroom, and this window especially, the window looks out to the surrounding greenery.

"Both Chetan and Anusha know exactly what they want and waste no time in taking bold decisions. They wanted to create a bright and cheerful living space that accentuated the available natural light and ventilation, thereby reducing reliance on artificial lighting and cooling."

The house has a contemporary style that emphasizes on comfort. Yet, one can spot many Oriental designs in the Bhagat's apartment. Each room has a little something that is Oriental. Having lived in Hong Kong for 11 years, the couple acquired a tasteful Oriental collection. A few meaningful furniture-pieces were brought to include in



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their Mumbai home. "We simply love the Zen, minimal feel and wanted to combine it with the Oriental pieces we had," shares Anusha.

The couple are devoted parents and have seven-year-old twin boys, Shyam and Isshan. Chetan is always travelling but when home he is either writing or spending quality time with the boys. Anusha is a working mother who currently is the Executive Director of UBS securities. She explains, "I believe that kids will be kids. So besides the obvious childproofing, the next best thing a parent should offer their child is space. Space for them to move around in freely and if that means less furniture, so be it!" The twins spend a lot of time in their room. It is spacious with plenty of room for playing and running around. The twins' delightful nature reflects in their room as their likes and passion adorn it. Colorful striped blinds, racetrack carpet and open shelves fill the room.

Anusha loves to cook and participated in the design process of the kitchen. The compact kitchen

required special attention. "To create a totally unique melee, we selected natural hand-cut limestone slabs for the kitchen walls and genuine teakwood for the cabinets," informs Kaizad.

Chetan has a room in the apartment that doubles up as his home-office and writing-room. One can assume what he does in here. But besides working on bestsellers, he has a hobby that keeps him busy-growing herbs and vegetables. "I love the feel of greenery surrounding me, especially where I'm writing. So, Kaizad and I decided that in the little space outside the window, I could grow my own herbs and vegetables. I encourage my sons to help me grow these plants," shares Chetan.

The Bhagats have had a home in Hong Kong and more recently at Church Gate in the South of Mumbai. But, the couple was keen to create a space that was a genuine reflection of their personality, sensibility and status. With this apartment, they have managed to find a perfect blend that they call home.



**"I love the feel of greenery surrounding me, especially where I'm writing."**

Chetan Bhagat