

# The writer's block

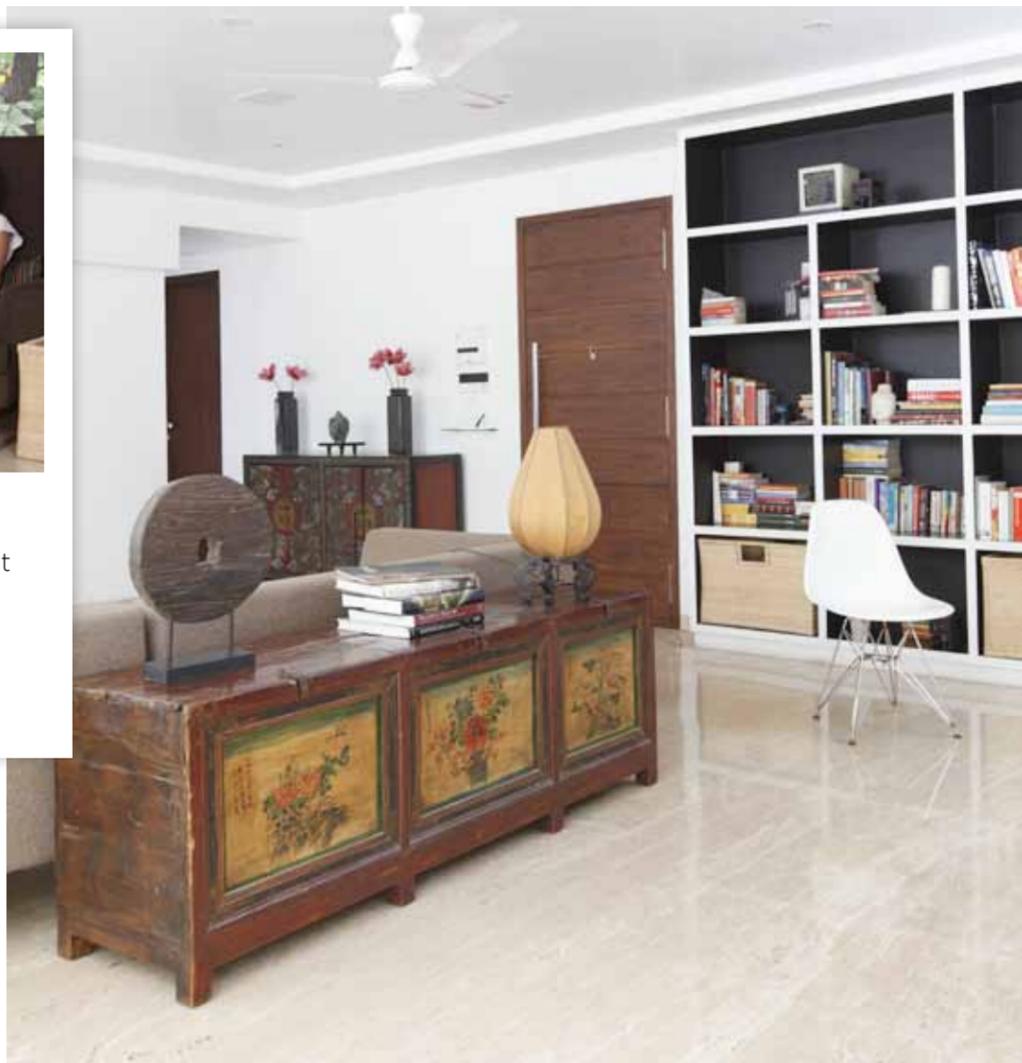
Despite the popular success of his works, author Chetan Bhagat manages to stay grounded. We bring you a glimpse of the author as a family man, at home

**FEATURE** AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA **PHOTOGRAPHS** VIKRANT KHARAT & ARJUN SHAH



### House fact file

**Owners** Chetan and Anusha Bhagat  
**Property** Apartment  
**Interior Designer** Kaizad Dinshaw, Nitido Designs  
**Location** Mumbai  
**Area** 2,400 sqft



**L**ove him or hate him, he's still an obsession! Chetan Bhagat has—since his first book release—emerged as a literary force to reckon with. Having consistently whipped up bestseller after bestseller, he has gone on to prove his worth as a popular storyteller. So popular are his works, that they have even gone on to dazzle the big screen. So, it's only natural to wonder what kind of space the author feels at home in. And so, for the first time ever, Chetan Bhagat exclusively invited us over to get a first hand look.

Akin to his books, you'll be drawn in from the moment you set foot inside. This 2,400 sqft apartment not only speaks of Chetan's personal style, but of his wife, Anusha's as well. The spacious four-bedroom apartment is testimony to the couple's philosophy of minimalism and simplicity. Not to say though, that minimal is without style. This sprawling apartment has undeniable character with an obvious emphasis on comfort. "Yes, 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 when complimented on the comfort level of his home. The fact that they have seven-year-old twin boys—Ishaan and Shyam—only justifies this unspoken need for comfort. Talking more ▶



### ▲ Oriental living room

Chetan and Anusha's love for Oriental style, can be traced to when they were staying in Hong Kong. They were clear that they wanted to include their acquired collection into their Mumbai home.

### ◀ Client and designer

Seen here, Kaizad Dinshaw—of Nitido Designs—and Chetan are deep in thought. Anusha credits Kaizad with a bang-on translation of their vision.



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— CHETAN BHAGAT

### Children's room

With ample space to play around in, it's no wonder that Ishaan (bowling) and Shyam (batting) love their bedroom and spend a lot of their time here. The twins are quite a delight to be around and their room speaks loud and clear of their likes and passions!



about the needs of a home when kids are involved, Anusha, who currently is the Executive Director of UBS securities, discloses, "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!" Right on cue, Shyam, dressed in a bright red tee runs through the spacious living room, generally enjoying being young!

Anusha credits much of the success of the apartment to Kaizad Dinshaw, the interior designer and partner at Nitido Design—a Mumbai-based design consultancy and contracting firm. Coincidentally, Kaizad was also present on the day of the shoot. Talking about the experience of rubbing shoulders with



#### ▲ Shelving system

For the study table, Kaizad created a smart, open shelving system. This makes it easy for the twins to help themselves to their study materials.

#### ◀ Strip art

Going by the philosophy that stripes add length to a space, Anusha opted for striped fabric blinds that also introduce colour into the room.



Chetan, Kaizad reveals, "Working with Chetan and Anusha was without doubt a great experience. Both of them know exactly what they want and waste no time in taking bold decisions." Taking us through the brief given by Chetan and Anusha, Kaizad goes back to when they first met. "The brief was quite clear—to create a bright and cheerful living space that accentuated the available natural light and ventilation, thereby reducing reliance on artificial lighting and cooling." Talking about the style of the house, Kaizad says, "Both wanted the house to have a contemporary air with subtle hints of traditional charm." And tradition makes its presence felt in the Oriental pieces of furniture. This could perhaps be attributed to the fact that Chetan and Anusha have lived in Hong Kong for a major part of their married life before shifting to India. Acknowledging this thought, Anusha confirms, "Some of these pieces are from our home in Hong Kong. We simply love the Zen, minimal feel and wanted to combine it with the Oriental pieces we had. Although, we ▶



“We love the Zen feel and wanted to combine the minimalistic style with the Oriental pieces we had.”

— ANUSHA BHAGAT



▲ Oriental style

Their love for the Orient even found its way into the master bedroom through means of this cabinet solution.

didn't want to add too many elements considering it would have appeared overwhelming.”

“We had the option of going in for an apartment on a higher floor. But we fell in love with the sight of eye-level greenery. We could see branches of trees and flowers very clearly from this particular apartment.” And the living room makes the most of this view. The dimensional layout of the windows offers an endless, and panoramic view of the trees. This view is further accentuated thanks to the non-inclusion of curtains or blinds.

In the original layout, two similar-sized bedrooms were located on either side of the living room. However, the master bedroom was extended, and the reduced room was converted into Chetan's home office. It's here that Chetan writes, conceptualises, etc. It's also here that Chetan tends to a veggie patch. Pointing to this green patch, he explains, “I love the feel of greenery surrounding me, especially where I'm writing. So, Kaizad and I decided that ▶

◀ Quirky corner

While the console table is an antique, Oriental piece, the cupboard is a beautiful imitation.

▲ Master bedroom

The master bedroom sports a bare minimalistic design. Chetan and Anusha love this space.

▼ Compact kitchen

Kaizad chose to use hand-cut limestone slabs for the kitchen backdrop. He also sourced genuine teakwood for all the cabinets.



▲ Black magic bathroom

For this bathroom, some area from the adjacent room was taken in so as to create more space.

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." It's definitely an organic process, one that adds an earthy touch to this overall space.

Even Kaizad is all praise for the original layout. He goes on to give a detailed account, "In terms of the layout, not much has been altered. The space itself was already something nice to work with. However, the civil work in this apartment was very extensive. For the flooring we decided to use travertine marble and selected strong slabs with extra thickness. All doorframes were replaced with handcrafted teak wood frames. High quality satvario white marble was used in the master bathroom in combination with Italian black marble. The old shaky aluminium windows were replaced with double-glazing for sound and heat insulation."

Sounds like a lot of work. Anusha adds that the project had shot way above budget. "But," she adds, "No matter the hurdles, we love the end result. It reflects our style and is a place we call home. Chetan and I couldn't be happier." 

“I love the feel of greenery surrounding me, especially where I’m writing.”

— CHETAN BHAGAT



This calming corner beautifully explores the Bhagats' Oriental connection!

# Get the Bhagats' style

Soothing pieces and simple lines will get you this classy look



Light work Perfect for those late night sessions, this table lamp from Objecto is great

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WHERE TO BUY  
FLIP TO THE END

▼ Calm tidings  
Bring in that Zen feel with the Buddha-inspired wall clock from Attic



► Smart storage  
By Portside Cafe, this letter holder stores and stacks correspondence in style



◀ Twig charms  
This Twig Vase from Stanley Boutique looks beautiful



► Bathe in style  
Opt for this classy bath set from Keuco



Cosy perch Plush without a doubt, this high-back chair from Fusion Access is a great way to relax