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NEWEST
COLLECTIONS

THE
LIVING ROOM SETUP LIST

MEET OUR
STORAGE
SUPERSTARS

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TOP SMARTEST DESIGNS

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FROM INDIA'S TOP DESIGNERS

CARTOONIST
PAUL FERNANDES
ON HOME, MEMORY & ART
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FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

Remember the days when you used to watch TV in the bed? Sit down for proper meals at the dining table? And walked into the bedroom only at bedtime? Compare that to today.

We watch our favourite shows in bed. Work from the couch during ad breaks. Have TV dinners as a matter of routine. And side our phones with us even into the loo! This is an era of fluid spaces, where rooms don’t come with pre-defined purposes. We use our space any which way, based on our habits and needs. And therein lies the challenge.

How do you design a home that fits into your lifestyle? How do you turn rooms into seamless, multifunctional spaces? What sort of smart furniture do you need? We answer all these and more in these pages.

As always, there’s plenty of ideas and inspiration: decor tips from India’s foremost interior design experts, room setup tips, and as a special, a tête-à-tête with cartoonist Paul Fernandes, whose works have immortalized the Bengal of a bygone era.

Happy reading!

Geornith
Chief Editor
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MEET THE LIVE-IN ROOM

The room in which you’ll spend most of your time. The room literally every guest will see. Here’s a checklist to get the setup of this all-important space right.

WHAT WILL YOU DO HERE?
From watching TV to reading and game nights, list out everything. And then plan the furniture you need to support these.

WHO WILL USE THIS SPACE?
Are there kids and parents around? Or just the two of you? How often do you host friends and family? Answering these will help you decide how many seats you need.

HOW DO YOU IMAGINE THIS SPACE?
Couch and casual? Elegant and sophisticated? Or all-out Bohemian? Pick a style and start putting the pieces together.

SERRA Glass Top Side Table
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SERRA Wooden Sofa 2 Seater
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SERRA Glass Top Coffee Table
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KEPLER Tripod Table Lamp
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**I love having people over**
Stay guest-ready always, with the right picks.

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When guests come knocking, you might have to take the couch. Keep ’em comfy!

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**I love watching TV**
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Watch TV from anywhere just lift and point it to wherever you are.

**ARE YOU A HOMEBODY?**
What kind are you?

**I love my fur-kids**
It’s called fur-miture for a reason!
Pet parents, here’s what you need.

**GALATEA MARBLE COFFEE TABLE**
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Pet-proof, stable piece, no-breakable glass or sharp corners.

**I love my family time**
Keep the electronics out and design the room for great conversation!

**EPSILON COFFEE TABLE**
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Leaf height, so it’s out of the way. Spacious, so it can hold all the mugs and munchies.

**I love my family time**
Keep the electronics out and design the room for great conversation!

**TRISSINO LEATHER SOFA SET 3+1+1**
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Leather and leatherette are fur-resistant and easy to clean.

**FLORENCE COMPACT SOFA**
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Have seniors at home? Go for five-seater cushions. These don’t sink in, making sitting down and getting up real easy.

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Light, bright accent chairs that you can just draw up. Perfect for those evening gab-up sessions.
MAKE ROOM FOR YOU

To think, create, or dream, everyone needs a quiet getaway. Be it out on the balcony, by a window, or in a corner of the hall, bag a little spot for yourself!

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Finn Fluton sofa bed
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COOPER ROCKER RECLINER
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JANET LOVESEAT
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ORITA SOFA
₹20,999
A tete-a-tete with ex-ad-man and cartoonist Paul Fernandes, whose whimsical works capture the soul of Bangalore of a bygone era.

Gauri N. Kishore

The Welsh word hisath means a longing for a home or a place you’ve never been to, one that was never yours. It’s what I’ve always felt about old Bangalore and it’s why I feel a strong connect to cartoonist Paul Fernandes’ works. To me, they also celebrate two things: Urban Ladder holds dear creative expression at its personal best, and the warm fuzzy feeling that is home.

For this interview, we met Paul at his lovely gallery at Paulology, tucked away in the heart of Richmond Town. A slight, smiling man who brings to mind a benevolent genie, he welcomes us inside. The walls are adorned with framed prints of his original cartoons, most depicting scenes from pre-Independence Bangalore.

I ask him where his inspiration comes from. “It comes from everywhere,” he says, spreading his hands. “I pack my sketchbook and pens, get on my cycle, and just ride around Bangalore. Stopping when I see a building with interesting architecture or a roadside scene. I talk to the people, ask them about their memories and experiences, and all of it goes towards the creation of a piece of art.”

Another thing that strikes me is his impishness, his gentleness. For instance, he puts actual people he knows into his paintings. The angry-looking lady driver in Driver at MG Road is his mother. “She was a terror on the road,” he chuckles. “In any other place or time, she would not even have been allowed to drive!”

Home & Memory

“My father was a doctor, born and educated in England. In 1948, he returned to India and bought this old bungalow set in the middle of sprawling grounds. It even came with stables and an old Victorian carriage. We were 6 of us siblings and you’d find us up on one of the many fruit trees in the garden.”

“In those days, furniture was custom-made for certain rooms,” Paul reminisces. “The dining table in my childhood home was a grand creation that could easily seat 20 people, because we used to have huge, joint family meals. There were some pieces of furniture.
If you're waking up tired and achy or sleeping better in hotel rooms, it's time to change your mattress.

If you prefer a soft, giving surface to sleep, choose a memory foam mattress. It evenly distributes your weight and relieves your pressure points. Recommended range: CLOUD

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Spring mattresses give you a bit of bounce. While bonnell springs are just as comfortable, pocket springs let you sleep undisturbed by your partner's movements. Recommended ranges: DREAMLITE, CLOUD

WAKE-UP CALL

Furniture has a big role in nostalgia. It's such an important part of what makes home, home. That's probably why it stars in so many memories.

People & Places

Paul has been called the Mario Miranda of Bangalore. How does Paul see himself, I wonder.

"I see myself as a chronicler of people and times. Of habits and customs and ways of life," he tells me, smiling widely.

As we leave, I notice how his art has been juxtaposed onto merchandise—coasters, playing cards, posters... Does this bother him? "No, no," he says. "We must move with the times."

And this, I think, is what underscores his life's work. This amazing ability to look at the past without regrets or lamentations, but instead, create joyful vignettes to remember it by.

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THE AFTER-HOURS ROOM

Who says this is just a place to sleep? Set up this space to be the perfect playground for life after 7PM.

START
with the bed, placed with plenty of walking space on either side.

LEAVE
one wall free for wardrobes, dressers, and other storage.

SET
the mood with layered lighting. Add pendant lamps and bedside lights for warmth and functionality.

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MARTINO UPHOLSTERED BEDSIDE TABLE
₹8,999

MARTINO UPHOLSTERED CHEST OF DRAWERS
₹18,099

Lose reading in bed? Lean back comfortably against the upholstered headboard.
TOWARDS A CLUTTER-FREE SPACE

When you find a place for everything and put everything in its place, you'll realize just how much room gets freed up!

Wardrobes Minus Malfunctions
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VENTURI STUDY CHAIR
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₹ 9,499
THE FAMILY ROOM

Dining tables are likely the heart of the home. Where days are recapped and stories swapped. Where prep is done for tonight’s dinner and tomorrow’s exam. Here’s how to set up this space.

SHAPE MATTERS
Rectangle tables fit most spaces while round ones let you add more chairs at a pinch.

SPACE MATTERS
Not sure how many seats you need? Choose foldable or expandable tables that let you make room as you need.

COMFORT MATTERS
Choose your chair with care. Wooden seats are low maintenance, while upholstered ones are more comfy. For even better comfort, consider armrests and support—giving backs.

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These multipurpose accessories can change the way you use your space.

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Rs 15,999

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BORING ROOMS? NEVER!

Are you a little bored of how your rooms look, but unsure what to do? We asked some of India’s top home decor experts for their fail-safe tips to turn rooms from drab to fab.

Compiled by: Chandini Kukreja

Play with patterns.

For an instant update for your rooms, turn first to furnishings—they can turn mundane into magical! Print on pattern is trending right now and it’s a great way to add an element of fun. Go for foliage and flowers to bring spring in, play with paisley to celebrate India modern, or choose geometric shapes to be contemporary chic.

Ridhi Kaic
Editor at India Today Homes

Light it right.

During the day, make the most of natural light with sheer curtains. For evenings, consider extra sources of lighting apart from your regular functional ones. Floor, table, and wall lamps are a great way to add some dimension to your room, create little nooks, and set the mood.

Tina Roy
Decor Lead, Urban Ladder

Plant something beautiful.

Plants! The one decor item that is available everywhere, in the widest possible variety, easy to ‘install’ and use, and go with every look and decor style! Plants are my one fail proof, go-to decor item that glamours any space instantly. And I don’t consider any room complete until the plants are in!

Nairika
Aranya Interiors

Colour in & outside the lines.

You can create any mood in your home just by changing the colours. The keys is to keep your larger pieces of furniture i.e. sofa, bed, or shelves in a neutral shade and refresh the textiles—rugs, throws, curtains, etc. Cool colours like greens and blues will give a calming effect whereas warm tones like yellows and reds brighten up your space.

Sunita Yogesh
House of Patterns

Mirrors, mirrors, on your walls.

Mirrors aren’t just for your dresser, they make lovely accent pieces in any room. Use large, decorative mirrors especially in your living or foyer area. For my home I chose a rectangular hand-painted Persian mirror, which also is a great conversation starter.

Nain Bellappa
House of 9 Design

Products featured:
- Lewis sectional sofa
- Strada coffee table
- Reden lounge chair
- Sayan chaise
- Kepler table lamp
- Honeysuckle bed
- Scada bookshelf
- Taylor wall mirror
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Shruthi Ramesh
#ULStory
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