

« BEFORE // AFTER »

# TIME *Travel*

*An expansive estate that was taken up for comprehensive, large-scale renovation in 2006, Shalini Bhupal's lushly refurbished Hyderabad home has been designed around her exquisite collection, and bears the imprint of her unique style*

WRITER NAMITA A SHRIVASTAV • PHOTOGRAPHER ANTONIO MARTINELLI



**H**omes need to be refreshed from time to time," says Shalini Bhupal as she adjusts the folds of her orange Hermès cashmere stole. It's a personal decor diktat she applied to her own home, which she decided to rework in 2006.

Daughter of industrialist GVK Reddy and executive director, Taj GVK Hotels and Resorts, Bhupal—most people know her as Shalu—is known for her style. Her home could not have been any other way. Sprawling over two acres of immaculate gardens, her house in Hyderabad's prestigious Banjara Hills area seamlessly blends into her parents' similar-sized plot. Perched on an ivory-tufted sofa in her luxurious living room, which is a repository of vintage as well as avant-garde art and objets d'art, she says, "I'd simply outgrown the house I'd moved into when I was 25. The old house had begun to look jaded and boring. I longed for

cleaner lines and a softer palette, with more space for my son Krishna and his family." And so the resolve to undertake the renovation that spanned nearly four years, and ended in early 2010 when she moved back into the spanking new space. "It's not easy [to renovate]; building a new place is easier," she advises. After much deliberation, with a posse of accomplished architects, the job commenced.

## THE MANDATE

Bhupal articulated her well-researched ideas to the team. She told them that the gilded furniture and granite bathrooms had to disappear. Simply put, she told them that the house needed a totally new attitude. The architects, in turn, have created a space that is entirely about contemporary luxury. Architect Ravinder Punde of Design Cell, New Delhi, was largely responsible for the

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*(From the top)*

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The bar close to the living room is for private entertaining; the counter is made of a flamed-and-jagged black Portoro marble with gold-and-white veins; the bar chairs are from 200 Lexington, New York, and the crystal sculpture is by Lalique. The contemporary, functional kitchen is from Poggenpohl and is not used for everyday cooking; the bar stools are from D&D, New York. The mother-and-child sculpture in the corridor was picked up at an auction in Hyderabad.

