

NEW YEAR, NEW HOME!

Skip the renovation rush; a New Year reset of space, light and purpose can change everything

Bindu Gopal Rao

Before you book a renovation, buy a new sofa, or blame your home for feeling “off”, pause. The fastest, cheapest and most powerful upgrade your Bangalore flat needs this New Year isn't a makeover, but a reset.

Start where the chaos lives; clutter. Objects that no longer serve a purpose, functional or emotional, are quietly stealing space, light and calm. Clear your horizontal surfaces. Let tabletops, counters and shelves breathe again. The moment light and air re-enter a room, the space begins to work for you, not against you.

“In Bangalore's dense residen-

tial contexts, spatial clarity often delivers the most immediate and impactful transformation,” says Ar. Mueen Haris, Principal Architect, DS2 Architecture. And the fix doesn't demand demolition. Sometimes, all it takes is rethinking placement.

Move furniture to improve flow. Redefine zones inside open plans. A sofa turn can create a living room; a rug can announce a dining corner. Shift artwork, mirrors or wall installations across rooms to spark fresh focal points. Bring back traditional objects, brass, wood, heirloom pieces, but use them sparingly. Depth doesn't need overload.

Then comes the silent

game-changer - lighting. It's the most ignored design tool in Indian homes and the most powerful. Ditch harsh, uniform lighting. Layer it instead. Combine ambient lighting for mood, task lighting for function and accent lighting for drama. Switch to warmer light temperatures in living and sleeping areas. “Use floor and table lamps to soften corners and create intimate spatial pockets,” Haris advises.

Colour with courage

A home refresh also begins with a curated colour palette. One that dares to move beyond safe neutrals into mood-driven hues. “For 2026, I'm gravitating towards earth-bound tones, terracottas, deep moss greens and muddy plums, that offer a sense of grounded luxury,” says Ar. Bhupendra Kumar, Founder, Aeiforia Architects.

The next layer of the makeover is all about textural juxtaposition;

the art of mixing contrasting surfaces to create visual interest without piling on clutter. A well-designed room balances hard and soft with confidence; think a marble coffee table paired with a high-pile mohair rug, or sleek chrome accents set against raw, porous lime-washed walls.

“This tension between materials creates a sensorial experience that makes a space feel sophisticated and layered,” Kumar adds. Swapping mass-produced textiles for artisanal, hand-woven pieces or vintage linens instantly elevates the perceived value of a home, making it feel thoughtfully curated rather than merely decorated.

Purpose before polish

Bringing nature indoors is a thoughtful place to begin. Planters, pots and even small fountains introduce greenery and movement, while compact garden tables and décor pieces carve out quiet corners for moments of pause. Sofa sets create cosy settings for gatherings, and the soft glow of candles adds a gentle warmth that instantly lifts the ambience.

“Rearranging existing décor, planters and pots into curated clusters can create strong visuals, while pairing plants with sculptures or fountains adds layered charm. Bringing lanterns, side tables or garden tables indoors offers a subtle seasonal update,” says Radeesh Shetty, Founder, Beruru. “

Striking the right balance between aesthetics and practicality begins with understanding how a space is truly used. Ask what the room is meant for, reading, cooking, unwinding or entertaining, and let those daily routines guide every decision. “Practicality lies in selecting décor that supports these activities seamlessly,” says Jenny Pinto, Founder and Design Director, Oorjaa.

Adding warmth

Start with one strong design anchor; ideally, a rug. Think of rugs as functional art; they define



MR. BHUPENDRA KUMAR

zones, add warmth and inject personality into a room. “Rotate rugs between rooms, edit out clutter and rearrange décor asymmetrically. Small shifts, layered textures and better placement can make familiar spaces feel new again,” says Smriti Choudhary, Brand Director, Cocoon Fine Rugs.

She adds that choosing materials that are durable, tactile and easy to live with makes all the difference. “When craftsmanship leads, functionality follows naturally,” Choudhary adds.

When a home is thoughtfully recalibrated, it doesn't shout for attention. Instead, it settles into the present, quietly confident, comfortable and ready to carry its inhabitants into the year ahead.

Thoughts before doing...

- Introduce greenery or outdoor-inspired pieces indoors.
- Arrange decor to draw attention to light-filled areas, nooks, or entryways.
- Avoid cluttering tables, shelves, or corners with too many items.
- Stick only to one colour or texture.
- Too large or too small items can look out of place.
- Choose pieces that resonate with your style.
- Poorly lit spaces can make even the best decor look dull.
- Some asymmetry brings good visuals.
- Curate corners, not just surfaces. Don't fill up the entire space with decor.
- Move lanterns, stools, or small tables from outdoors to indoors to change the ambience.
- Let light guide your setup, and position lamps or candles to highlight focal points or cosy corners.
- Introduce soft throws, patterned rugs, or cushions to pair with harder surfaces like stone or wood.
- Leave some areas intentionally sparse, negative space gives decor room to breathe.



AR. MUEEN HARIS



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