

GoodHomes

INDIA

GOOD DESIGN CHANGES EVERYTHING

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ON THE COVER

*Discovering
Prabhat Choudhary's
Boa Vista*

ONE OF THE FINEST
RESTORED HOMES
IN GOA TODAY

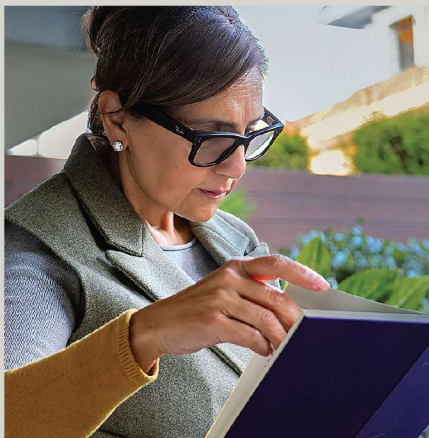
— DECODED —
THE NEW LANGUAGE OF
INDIAN LUXURY

Timeless, artisanal, intuitive, nature-driven and very personal

Where a *home* is born everyday

A home is not a statement. It is something that returns to us through everyday life

FEATURE **MONIKA CHOUDHARY** PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY **HABITAT ARCHITECTS**



Monika Choudhary

Founder, Chief Development Officer
& Growth Strategist,
Habitat Architects

Monika Choudhary is a strategist, cultural narrator and design leader shaping the evolving language of design in India. At Habitat Architects, she steers the firm's direction towards innovation, luxury and environmental responsibility. With an interdisciplinary background spanning interiors and fashion design, her work bridges strategy and creativity, shaping spaces that are culturally nuanced and globally attuned, while remaining deeply rooted in context and human experience.

Most days, I notice my home not when I enter it, but when I wake up inside it. The way the light filters in, the quiet before conversations begin, the familiar rhythm of moving from one space to another. These are the moments that stay with me far longer than any visible act of design. We often imagine homes as something we create. In reality, a home begins again every single day. I've come to understand that the homes we feel comfortable in are rarely the ones that try. They allow you to settle.

That is where the idea of responsible design becomes real...not in what we declare, but in how a space supports everyday life. In practice, this begins with how we read the site. Light, orientation, prevailing climate, these are the starting points. Rooms are positioned not only for function, but for how they receive the day. Morning spaces are given light that is gentle and direct; transitional spaces are allowed to breathe.

Planning should be an exercise in sequencing. Less about dividing spaces and more about how one arrives in another. Material choices follow the same discipline. We look for options that settle over time, that carry texture without excess. The aim is to build continuity.

What I find most telling is how little we need to make a home feel complete. Not more objects, but greater clarity in what we select. Not more rooms, but more thoughtful connections. It is this restraint that creates a sense of comfort. Perhaps that is why the homes we hold closest are not the ones we remember in detail. We don't recall every finish or every piece of furniture. What stays with us is how they made us feel, at ease, at rest, at home.

I've come to trust a few simple instincts. A spot where natural light meets you easily. A corner that's unfilled. And how you move through your spaces, because more often than not, comfort reveals itself in these quiet patterns long before we think to design for it.

