

“Open spaces add soul”

When they decided to set up a home of their own ten years ago, the Vijaykumars' first idea was to have a beach house on East Coast Road. However, their love for South Indian architecture and design, made them cancel the new-age beach house plan and go in for a breath-

down in the city,” says Aruna, a homemaker. Vijaykumar, an entrepreneur, has designed the house with the help of architect Benny Kuriakose. The atrium or *mittham* is one of the remarkable features of this house; four strong timber pillars hold up the ceiling.

this space. The back door of the house leads out to a spacious sitting area and a manicured lawn. The painting done by a temple artist from Guruvayur, seems to look over the rest of the house. Sleek built-in timber seats give you a beautiful view of the garden with blooming creepers and trees. “This is our favourite spot in the house. It is

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taking bungalow with gabled roofs and beautiful Chett-inad pillars inside. “This house is barely a block away from the beach and is in a peaceful area. Ten years ago, East Coast Road was a secluded stretch. Today, it is the most popular drive-

A stunning bronze idol of Shiva sits framed in an intricately carved temple doorway mounted on the wall. Lining the space is a beautiful brass *uruli* (bowl) in which float flowers and candles. Huge *diyas* and lanterns light up various corners of

built like a traditional *padippura* or gate house. This is where I sit if I want to feel nostalgic and recall the homes from my childhood,” says Vijaykumar adding, “open spaces don’t just keep the house ventilated, they also give it soul.”